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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head Awaits Bubiyan Incident Details

NC0109154091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that he has not received information he can officially rely on regarding the Iraqi military landing on the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan.

Commenting today on the Iraqi aggression against Bubiyan Island, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he received preliminary information on the incident from Nabil Najm, Iraq's delegate to the Arab League, adding that he asked for additional information but has not yet received it.

Kuwait handed a memorandum to the Arab League on Thursday, giving details of the Iraqi landing operation at Bubiyan Island on Wednesday.

Arab Economic, Social Council Session To Begin

Jordanian Trade Minister Arrives

NC0209204891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1849 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Jordanian minister of industry, trade, and supply, arrived in Cairo this evening on a several days' visit to Egypt during which he will attend the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

The Jordanian minister was welcomed on arrival at the airport by members of the Jordanian Embassy in Cairo.

Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives

NC0209205091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

In an arrival statement, Salih emphasized the need for the Arab states to work toward achieving economic integration to confront international challenges. On this he called for abolishing barriers among the Arab states, allowing free movement of goods and products, and lifting restrictions on economic exchange and cooperation among the Arab states.

Iraqi Group Arrives for Arab Economic Meetings

NC3108173191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1639 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—An Iraqi economic delegation including Faruq Dawwar Salman al-'Ubaydi, director general of economic relations at the Iraqi Trade Ministry, and Rikan Hadid, director general of organizations at the Iraqi Trade Ministry, arrived in Cairo from Amman today. The delegation will attend the meetings of the experts committee of the Council of Arab Economic Unity due to to open in Cairo tomorrow, Sunday.

GCC Official Discusses Regional Security Force

NC3108085191 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 31 (AFP)—Gulf military chiefs will meet in October to finalise plans for a proposed joint security force, a senior official of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said Saturday.

Sayf ibn-Hashil al-Maskari, the council's assistant secretary general for political affairs, also called for reforms to strengthen the 10-year-old GCC which comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

GCC chief of staffs met this week in Muscat to "study the idea of creating a deterrent force," and in October they are expected to gather again to finalise this project, said al-Maskari.

He told the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ that there were a lot of questions that still needed to be answered before a regional security force was established. He did not elaborate.

Maskari also did not speculate on the size of the planned force but said it would be ineffective in the absence of "a real will by regional leaders to face up to aggression."

The Gulf states have been considering setting up a regional security force in the aftermath of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Al-Masakri also criticised the GCC for being slow in implementing plans since its creation and this, he said, had prompted Gulf nationals to "wonder about and doubt the seriousness of the council's decisions."

He said the GCC should strive to set up more joint projects to "link the peoples of the GCC with each other."

Otherwise, he said, "the council will ... be vulnerable to threats."

Editorial on GCC Meeting

JN3108160891 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Aug 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Along the Correct Path"]

[Text] The principle of "self-reliance" and the principle that "the security of the Gulf is the responsiblity of its people" were the most important principles from which the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] chiefs of staff proceeded.

Based on these principles, the chiefs of staffs formed their initial ideas about setting up a joint and independent force that could impose peace and stability, both of which are hoped for by the countries in the region.

In fact, the major goal of this meeting is to search for ways to become self-reliant and achieve security in the region, in view of the ideas proposed by the GCC security committee which stresses the need to change the principle of self-reliance to a tangible reality.

Undoubtedly, the chiefs of staff have learned a real and beneficial lesson from the tragedy of the invasion of Kuwait. They all affirm it is necessary that the citizens of the GCC states should assume the responsibility for defending their homeland first and foremost, along with the help of those countries that backed sisterly Kuwait during its crisis, and continue to back it now.

The true desire shown by the GCC chiefs of staff to form initial ideas on the joint force reflects their awareness and the sense of responsibility they shoulder and pushes them to take urgent and necessary measures to protect their countries from any threat to the security of the region in the future.

In general, the positive results of the Muscat meeting did meet the level of events through which the region is passing. They are definitely important events, especially if we keep in mind that Iraq has not yet implemented all the international resolutions issued by the Security Council. It continues to stall before revealing its mass-destruction weapons.

What is of importance here is that the GCC chiefs of staff take into consideration that this joint force must be the nucleus of a huge Gulf army in the future which would enjoy large-scale possibilities in number, equipment, and training. It would also be able to bear the burden of the great duty it has to perform, which is to protect the GCC states from anyone who has designs over them.

What is also of importance is that there is harmony between the measures adopted by the Muscat meeting and the measures taken in the Damascus Declaration so that the GCC countries would benefit from the coordination between these two huge steps.

Arab Peasant Unions Meet in Libya 30 Aug

LD3008212191 Tripoli JANA in English 1711 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 30th Hannibal [August], 91, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In the Grand Hotel in Tripoli, the meetings of the general Union of Arab Peasant and Cooperative Agriculturalists were held attended by delegates from Great al-Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Algeria, Jordan, Syria and Palestine. The secretary of the Union of Peasants in Great al- Jamahiriyah, in his speech, lauded the civilised achievements accomplished by the Great al-Fatih Revolution to the peasants. He enumerated the achievements brought about by this revolution spearheaded by the great man-made industrial river. Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Arab Union of Peasants and Cooperative Agriculturalists, in his speech, has commended the historic victory achieved by the Great al-Fatih Revolution on its 22nd anniversary represented by the celebration on the completion of the first phase of this river. This meeting was called after the name of this river at the suggestion of the head of the Algerian delegation. Meantime the secretaries of Arab Union of Peasants and heads of delegations spoke at this meeting. The delegates discussed the items on the agenda the items of which being the activities of the general secretariat, the study of laying down a programme for the oncoming period, the discussion of the fund of the union security, a memorandum on a fund for supporting the revolution of stones in occupied Palestine.

Palestinian Affairs

Jibril Says 3 Israeli Soldiers Still Alive

NC3108121491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril today accused the Israeli enemy of blocking a deal involving the hostages by its insistence on obtaining information about the seven Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon since 1982.

In a radio interview, Jibril said the Israelis are using the issue of these soldiers to try to avoid having to pay the necessary price for such a deal. Jibril disclosed that three Israeli soldiers are still alive.

Palestinian National Council To Meet 20 Sep

LD0109222791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The aim of the [4 Sep] meeting [of Palestinian factions] is to prepare for the forthcoming session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], which will be held in Algiers on 20 September, according to responsible Palestinian sources. As for the PNC chairmanship, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih declares that he will not nominate himself for the council chairmanship again. [passage omitted]

Hawatimah Comments on Talks

LD0209125591 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Algiers, September 2nd (APS)—The PNC (Palestine National Council) will meet here at the latest on September 20 to mainly examine four important files, stated on Sunday Nayif Hawatimah secretary general of the Democratic Front of the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

In an interview to APS Hawatimah noted the most important theme among the four is the political one composed of two sections:

1—The definition of modes of Palestinians' representation at the next peace conference in the Middle East.

2—The international legal basis of the holding of this conference as for the three other files, they regard the renewal of the PNC, the demands of national unity and its democratization and finally the election of a new Palestinian Central Council and a PLO Executive Committee. [sentence as received]

Furthermore, the DFLP's secretary general stated the question of the Palestinian delegation at the peace conference is "fundamental", it must comply with "rules of the international legitimacy, the right to existence, a homeland and to an independent representation of the Palestinian people".

The Palestinian delegation should be composed of "Palestinians from inside and outside Palestine, whom only the PLO is able to appoint." Moreover, added he, holy city El-Quds [Jerusalem] must be represented in compliance with resolutions 242, 338, 601, 605 and 681 of the Security Council and that regard this city as an integral part of the occupied West Bank, he disclosed.

According to Hawatimah, the Palestinian party will insist on the imperative aspect of the holding of the peace conference on the basis of "the international legitimacy that considers El-Quds, Ghaza and the West Bank as occupied territories by Israel and demands its withdrawal according to Geneva convention and other resolutions of the Security Council.

As for the second file, Hawatimah pointed out the Palestinian leadership has already defined the headlines of the necessary review of the PLO's components. There must be a representation of all currents" noted he. Regarding the file relative to "national unity and its democratization", the DFLP's secretary general stressed "Efforts are being exerted to ensure the participation of the Palestinian Salvation Front, the Islamic Jihad, and Hamas movement although the latter refuses any participation at the next Palestinian meeting. Moreover, the fourth [as received] file registered at the agenda of the PNC's works will be devoted to the election a new Palestinian Central Council and a new PLO Executive Committee.

Asked about the Palestinian position in the event of the US and Israeli's persistence to reject any independent Palestinian representation, Hawatimah stated "The USA and Israel will be the only ones to bear the responsibility of the non holding of an actual peace conference on the basis of the international legitimacy". Eventually, the secretary general of the DFLP called to unify the PLO's position and those of Arab countries concerned by the next peace conference before the visit of US Secretary of State James Baker within the second half of September.

1 Month Postponement Sought

JN0109074291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—It has been learned that contacts are under way involving a number of Palestinian officials, including Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, to postpone the date of the Palestine National Council [PNC] session for one month. The postponement would come so that the separate PLO negotiations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian National Salvation Front (Syria), can help the 20th PNC session achieve its goal of conveying comprehensive national Palestinian unity.

Informed Palestinian sources said this trend is in line with confirmed information obtained by the Palestinian leadership indicating that, during his visit to the Middle East in mid-September, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will announce that the peace conference will be held in November rather than in October.

It is worth noting that the PNC was scheduled to be meet on or around 20 September.

PLO Leaders To Meet, Discuss 'Arafat Activity

LD3108201491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] The Palestinian leadership is due to meet in Tunis in the coming week to assess the results of the brother President Abu- Ammar's recent activities, particularly in Amman and Libya, to review the results of the meeting with the leadership of the Hamas movement, to discuss the form of the dialogue which is to be held in San'a in the next few days with the Salvation Front, and to make final arrangements for the convening of the Palestinian National Council in Algeria during the second half of the month.

Session Begins 2 Sep

LD0209183591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The PLO's Executive Committee has begun a series of meetings in Tunis under the chairmanship of the brother leader, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee.

The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, has learned that the meeting discussed the preparatory measures for the 20th session of the Palestine National Council. It also considered and studied the efforts being made to convene the proposed peace conference and reviewed its implications. The meeting also covered ways of escalating the courageous intifadah and confronting the growing terrorist measures intended to repress and abort the intifadah of our people.

'Arafat Meets Arab Leaders in Tripoli 29 Aug

LD3008213891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, held in Tripoli today a series of meetings with the heads of states and delegations attending the inauguration of the Great Manmade River in the Jamahiriyah. Brother President Abu 'Ammar received: Captain Blaise Compaore, head of state and head of government in Burkina Faso; the president of Rwanda; President Amadou Toumani Toure, president of the Provisional Committee for the Salvation of the People and head of state in Mali; Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and second vice president; Mr. Somaila (Alizi), envoy of the president of Niger; and Mr. Daniel Ortega, former president of Nicaragua.

Discussion at these meetings centered on current international developments, foremost: the efforts being exerted to hold the proposed peace conference; the perils to world peace as a result of the attempt to exclude the PLO and Jerusalem with the aim of consecrating its occupation; Judaization; and turning Islamic and Christian holy places into archaeological and tourist places. The meetings also discussed bilateral relations between Palestine and the presidents of the concerned states.

Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday afternoon met Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. During the meeting, the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas were discussed, as well as the efforts being exerted to hold the international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Brother President Abu 'Ammar met yesterday evening Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. During the meeting, the latest developments in the Arab and international areas were discussed, especially the developments through which the Palestinian issue is going.

Brother President Abu 'Ammar met Brother President Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan. During the meeting, the latest developments through which the Palestinian issue is going were discussed, as well as the threats against our Islamic and Christian holy places, especially the issue of holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

More on 'Arafat's Meetings

LD3008220491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] president of the state of Palestine, yesterday evening met with his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September revolution. The meeting dealt with the latest developments of the Palestinian question, especially developments of the blessed Palestinian intifadah inside our occupied land, means of supporting it, and its steadfastness in the face of the means of Israeli oppression and terrorism and the Israeli plans to Judaize the holy places, especially the honorable city of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar, president of the State of Palestine, also met yesterday evening with His Majesty King Hassan II, monarch of the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting centered on examination of the latest developments the Arab region is going through, especially developments of the Palestinian question and our people's blessed intifadah inside our occupied land; on the importance of concentrating Arab and Islamic efforts to protect the honorable city of Jerusalem in the face of the Zionist plans to Judaize it and its sacrosants; and on the importance of the Arabness of Jerusalem being the main topic of any settlement in the region.

Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar yesterday evening met with Mr. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president to Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad. During the meeting, they carried out an exhaustive examination of developments on the Arab and international scenes and Syrian-Palestinian coordination in light of those developments.

'Arafat, Syria's Khaddam Agree on Joint Committee

JN3008152791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat agreed during their meeting in Libya yesterday to form a joint Syrian-Palestinian coordination committee, and that this committee will meet at the beginning of September.

PNC Official Views 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

NC0109121391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Tunis, 1 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], emphasized that President Husni Mubarak's recent meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's in Banghazi was widely welcomed by Palestinian circles in view of its favorable repercussions for the ongoing coordination between Cairo and the PLO, especially over matters connected with the Middle East peace conference.

Subayh noted the importance of convening a quadriparite meeting among Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO to coordinate the Arab stand on the subjects now under discussion before next [as received] month's PNC meeting in Algiers.

He expressed confidence that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting will be followed by more meetings between Egyptian and PLO officials.

President Mubarak met with 'Arafat in Banghazi on 28 August on the sidelines of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's celebration of the inauguration of the first phase the great man-made river project.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Subayh also denied Tunisian press reports that the PLO will move its headquarters from Tunis to Amman, adding that no such step was under discussion. He stressed that cooperation and coordination exist between the PLO and all Arab states and explained that the PLO continues to be welcomed in Tunis.

PLO Sets Conditions for Attending Peace Session

LD0209203891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] We will not go to the peace conference unless America gives us guarantees about Jerusalem and the settlements. This was stated by Brother Mahmud 'Abbas Abu-Mazin in an interview with the Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-WAFD. He affirmed that, so far, our conditions have not been met and we cannot agree to a peace conference that says no to Jerusalem and yes to the continuation of the settlements.

He added: First of all, we must be sure of the U.S. position on these two points. If the substance is guaranteed, then the form is very easy, and we can resolve it simply with Jordan or Egypt or Syria.

He said: If the Palestinians do not attend the conference, then I do not think there would be any sense in holding it. He expressed his hope that the Arab states would not attend under such circumstances and confirmed that no Arab state he has spoken to has differed about this subject.

Al-Husayni on Palestinian Delegation, Israel

NC3008185991 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Aug 91 p 2

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Jihan Fawzi in al-Husayni's office in East Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Fawzi] Why were all previous meetings with "James Baker" held outside East Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] There is no connection between the subject of the negotiations and the place of the meeting. The recent meeting could have been held in my home in East Jerusalem. But the place was not secure on that particular day. Therefore, the meeting was held in Hanan 'Ashrawi's home in Ramallah.

As for previous meetings, they were held in the U.S. consulate in West Jerusalem. In the future, the first meeting with Baker will be held here in my home.

[Fawzi] On what basis will the Palestinian delegation be set up?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, the Palestinian delegation will be formed once we say "yes". We have not said yes as yet, because we have not received enough assertions from the United States about certain invariable Palestinian principles, without which we cannot go to any conference. We want guarantees on the issues of [Israel's] withdrawal, self-determination, Jerusalem, and the terms of reference for the conference.

Subsequently, the form of the Palestinian delegation will be determined and the names will be selected according to competence and qualifications. The PLO will not present a list naming the delegation to anyone. Those who wish to meet with us to get acquainted with the delegation members will have to wait until the conference opens and the negotiations start.

[Fawzi] Will the delegation be exclusive to the three figures who met several times with Baker recently (al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Khalil Agha); and, is this delegation sufficient to discuss the various issues?

[Al-Husayni] Many issues will be discussed. Some are political, some economic, and others social. There are also the issues of security and water. It is not possible to set up a 25-member or 50-member delegation. They will be divided into groups and experts and specialists will be involved in every issue. What applies to the Palestinian delegation applies to any other delegation. We refuse to submit to any terms or standards less than those applied to other delegations.

[Fawzi] Shamir's 10-point initiative to start dialogue involves many "no's": no to PLO participation, no to negotiations on East Jerusalem, and no to an independent Palestinian state. At the same time, the settlements are growing. What is the Palestinian stand on this?

[Al-Husayni] We say to the United States: If you want stability in the region, you have to come back with our demands or else there will be no stability in the region.

[Fawzi] How far can the Palestinians make concessions before sitting at the negotiations table?

[Al-Husayni] We made the concession in 1988 and we are not prepared to make any other concessions. Our conditions are reasonable and they are compatible with international legitimacy. Hence, we will make no further concessions. It is Israel who should make concessions.

[Fawzi] Have you obtained U.S. guarantees that the issues brought forward at that conference will be implemented?

[Al-Husayni] We requested the Americans clarify certain principles and to begin implementing them during negotiations.

[Fawzi] Do you believe the U.S. Administration is serious in seeking a just solution to the Middle East and the Palestinian problems; what is the motive behind such a shift; and, do you believe that this was a result of the Gulf war?

[Al-Husayni] First, the United States is serious in seeking stability in the Middle East. It knows that there will be no stability unless the Palestinian issue is resolved. Hence, it is showing interest in resolving the Palestinian issue and in the Palestinian interests. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] Do you think that Syria will repeat what happened at Camp David and negotiate the Golan Heights unilaterally?

[Al-Husayni] The issue under consideration cannot be overpassed by any Arab or Muslim state. We are talking about Jerusalem, a very serious issue which will reflect not only on the future of Palestinians, but on that of the entire Arab nation. Hence, we believe that the Syrians will not embark on such a step. Golan is not as important to Syria as Sinai is to Egypt. It is clear for the Syrians that the Golan Heights are not important enough to justify their engaging in a unilateral process, as the case was with Egypt. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] What is your comment on the remarks made by the director of Sharon's office that negotiations will only be held to discuss peace and that not a single inch of the land will be relinquished (that is peace for peace)?

[Al-Husayni] He can say that Israel's borders extend to Washington, if he wants. He is free to say that. But events will prove the opposite.

[Fawzi] What about the remarks made by more than one official at the [Israeli] Housing Ministry, which boast about rejecting concessions and peace and refusing to stop the settlements in spite of the ongoing preparations for the conference?

[Al-Husayni] They can stop the peace process at any time. Accordingly, they will make no concessions as a result of the peace process. But if there is a decision to engage in the peace process, they can only surrender to the demands of international legitimacy.

Joint Palestinian-Jordanian Option Lauded

TA3008151191 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Leadership and the Difficult Decision"]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan is the most important of his visits during this delicate stage in the history of the Palestinian cause. The neighboring countries have spoken and expressed their consent to participate in the peace conference. Only one side has not yet spoken— the Palestinian side, particularly after Israel said "yes" to Baker's initiative and all eyes focused on the Palestinian side to speak. This is a U.S. attempt to close all outlets to the Palestinians: Either they say "yes" or they are accused and bear the responsibility for wrecking the peace conference. In the past, the Palestinians have been accused of being the masters of "the lost opportunity." It is not difficult to accuse them unfairly of this once again.

The question now is: Why this chase to seize this opportunity? The Arabs and the Palestinians have never been in a worse position and weaker than they are now. They are entering the conference hall while Israel and the United States hold all the cards. Are they going to the conference to agree on prior conditions and dictates? The essence of the Palestinian rejection does not lie in Palestinian representation, as the United States and Israel claim, but in Israel's refusal to relinquish land for peace, halt settlement activity, and recognize the Palestinian people's rights. Although the Arab and Palestinian side is weak, it has the greatest power, that is the power of the weak to reject conditions and wreck the entire game. The peace conference will be worthless if the Palestinian side does not attend. Anyone who believes that it is possible to circumvent the Palestinian side and find a "solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict without reaching a formula acceptable to the Palestinians is deluding himself.

If Jordan, in coordination with the PLO, is trying to provide Palestinian representation under the umbrella of legitimacy so that it can speak at the peace conference by means of a joint delegation, this option opens the door for the Palestinians to participate in the prospective conference without accepting conditions and dictates. Moreover, this option gives the Palestinians themselves the chance to form their own delegation to the conference without the interference of any outside party.

Apparently, the Palestinian leadership is facing a difficult if not the most difficult decision that it has had to make since the inception of the Palestinian problem. This decision will determine the course of the problem and the future of Palestinian generations. Available data indicates that the basic weak point of the Palestinians stems from a deep fault in the Arab side, which responded to a great extent to the U.S. conditions and dictates and made immense, unprecedented concessions.

Hence, the Palestinian leadership is taking its time in making the historic decision. If the agreement on forming the joint delegation by itself is not the end but the means to facilitate the arrival to the conference, there are points along the road that have to be cleared before reaching the conference. The intention is not to set preconditions but to proclaim principles on the objectives for regional issues, establish international legitimacy, and achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace. This requires an active, positive stance by the Palestinian side.

The Palestinian people, who have been scorched by bitterness and disasters over more than seven decades, are not demanding that the outcome of the conference be determined in advance. On the other hand, Israel does not have the right to ensure in advance that the results of the conference will be in its own favor. Any conference to resolve disputes cannot succeed unless the parties

show flexibility and meet halfway. On the Arab level, coordination between the neighboring countries and the Palestinians is now an urgent necessity. This is the least that can be done in the absence of Arab solidarity.

Editorial: Israel 'Not Interested' in Conference

TA3008164491 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 30 Aug 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Shamir's Game in Postponing the Peace Conference"]

[Text] Currently the Israeli Government is endeavoring to sell and propagate a concept based on the inevitability of postponing the proposed peace conference to be convened at the beginning of October. It is linking this postponement, without setting another date, to the rapid changes in the Soviet Union on one hand and to the question of Palestinian representation at the conference on the other.

If the question of Palestinian representation itself basically stems from the contradictions surrounding it before, during, and after the setting of a date for the conference at Mikhail Gorbachev's and George Bush's Moscow summit, it is clear that Yitzhaq Shamir's government is now trying to use the recent Soviet events as a pretext for placing more obstacles in the path of convening the conference at any time. This is, apparently, to achieve the objective of postponing the prospective conference indefinitely until further notice!

In other words, at this stage the Israeli Government is not interested in convening any conference. In this context, it believes that obtaining a postponement until the end of the current year or the beginning of next year, for example, will completely torpedo the idea of the conference because by that time the United States will have plunged into the fever of the election campaign and will not pay attention, in the throes of that domestic fever, to urgent regional problems and world issues. Moreover, by that time in Israel itself the election campaign for the new Knesset session, at the end of 1992, will have begun.

During his visit to Bulgaria two days ago, Shamir took another leap backward—while playing a dual game with the postponement card—when he stated that it is possible to convene the conference without the participation of the Palestinians, as if any conference can be convened without Palestinian participation and without discussion of the Palestinian problem in the presence of its legitimate representative, on the basis of international legitimacy that supports this presence.

In any event, Shamir's game cannot be disrupted except by clear and decisive Palestinian-Arab coordination on the question of Palestinian representation and by confronting the United States clearly and decisively in this respect.

U.S., USSR Urged To Proclaim Peace Principles

TA3008172191 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Aug 91 p 9

[Editorial: "The Cycle of Contradictions!"]

[Text] Jordan and the PLO are engaged in drafting a memorandum of understanding that will guide their stances on the convocation of a regional peace conference. For its part, Israel is awaiting the drafting of a memorandum of understanding with the United States, and the Palestinian figures authorized by the PLO to hold meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are awaiting a U.S. response on drafting a memorandum of understanding or a letter of assurances. Apparently, Syria is seeking to obtain a memorandum of understanding with Washington.

The U.S. Administration promised Israel a memorandum of understanding. It promised the Palestinian side a letter of assurances, and Syria says that the peace conference will be convened on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Apparently, each side is trying to obtain guarantees before reaching the negotiating table. This is due to the ambiguity pervading the U.S. efforts to convene the peace conference.

Since his first visit to the region in the wake of the Gulf war, the U.S. secretary of state has striven to confine his efforts to procedural points to bring the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table. He decided to postpone discussion of substantive issues until after the beginning of negotiations. Perhaps this is what drove all the parties in the conflict to try to obtain memoranda of understanding with the U.S. Administration. They would rely on the memoranda during the peace conference.

Israel's demands totally contradict the demands of the Arab parties to the conflict. Israel is seeking a memorandum of understanding from Washington concerning its right to interpret Resolution 242 in a way that differs from the international interpretation, to object to the makeup of the Palestinian delegation, and to exclude Arab Jerusalem both in substance and representation while saying that it will continue building settlements even after the negotiations begin. The Arab parties, however, are seeking clear U.S. positions on the interpretation of Resolution 242 to mean an end to occupation, Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab lands it occupied in 1967, a halt in settlement activity, and the right of the Palestinian people to self- determination, and to choose their representatives without foreign interference.

The policy of procedural points has aroused confusion and has used ambiguity as a cover. We believe that the United States and the Soviet Union, as the ones that will issue the invitations to the parties in the conflict to attend the peace conference, should put forward clear principles relying on the bases and foundations of international legitimacy.

If principles are proclaimed on the basis of international legitimacy, all the parties to the conflict will realize that the establishment of peace is, to a large extent, linked to the acceptance and acknowledgment of international legitimacy. Otherwise, the cycles of contradictions and ambiguity and the diplomacy of words will ultimately lead to running around empty circles.

Commentary on Soviet, U.S. Stance

LD3108221291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush said that the failure of the coup in the Soviet Union enhanced the chances of establishing peace in the Middle East. However, he did not explain his statement. Maybe his Secretary of State James Baker was more candid when he said that the Soviet Union will be committed as before to create an active and dynamic Middle East peace process in participation with us and others. What Baker said very clearly in the language of diplomacy means that the Soviet Union will continue to support U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East, will agree to all the steps initiated by Baker, and will be fully committed to whatever U.S. efforts lead to.

The question that is posed is: Is there a U.S. plan, a Soviet-U.S. plan, or a joint framework of action for establishing peace in the region? Those who follow up developments are fully aware that the U.S. Administration lacks a comprehensive plan. Whatever it is trying to do is represented in bringing the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table to talk about what will be discussed after the opening protocol session of the proposed peace conference.

The Israeli Government led by Yitzhaq Shamir replied to Bush and Gorbachev's decision to send out invitations for the convening of a peace conference on the Middle East in October by saying "yes" providing that Jerusalem was excluded in terms of representation and as an issue, if it was understood that every side had the right to interpret the [UN] Security Council Resolution 242 in accordance with its point of view, and if it [Israel] had the right to object to any member of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Israeli conditions abrogate international legitimacy in letter and detail. The exclusion of Jerusalem is in complete contradiction with the UN Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem, and the same applies to its [Israel's] insistence on providing its own interpretation of Resolution 242. It wants to abrogate that resolution which stipulates clearly the inadmissibility of forceful occupation of territory that belongs to others, and [stipulates] the principle of land in exchange for peace.

The abrogation of international legitimacy has become a condition for Israeli participation in the proposed peace conference. However, we have not heard of any stance from Moscow on this sensitive issue without which one cannot imagine the commencement of the peace process.

As for the U.S. Administration, it is currently seeking, through obscure means, to contain the Israeli conditions and suggest to the parties to the conflict that it accepts their views. Faced with all that, we cannot understand what the U.S. Secretary of State meant when he said that opportunities for peace have been bolstered. How could they be bolstered in the absence of international legitimacy?

PLO Renews Calls for Meeting With 4 Arab States

NC0109075191 Paris AFP in English 0644 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Tunis, Sept 1 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation has renewed calls for a meeting with Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan to resolve the issue of Palestinian representation at a Middle East peace conference, a PLO official said.

"If the meeting does not take place before a conference is convened we risk seeing the issue of Palestinian representation solved according to the wishes of Israel and the United States," Nayif Hawatimah told AFP on Saturday.

Hawatimah, whose Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine is one of three key PLO groups, said however that some of the four Arab states had reservations on such a meeting. [passage omitted]

Palestinian officials meanwhile said that the PLO leadership would meet in Tunis on September 4 to prepare for a meeting later this month of the Palestine National Council—a parliament-in-exile—to discuss the representation issue.

The PNC will also seek to iron out internal Palestinian differences and namely convince the fundamentalist Hamas group based in the occupied territories to show more flexibility towards the peace process.

Hamas is opposed to any negotiated settlement with Israel.

Islamic Jihad Leader Interviewed on Palestine

LD3008101191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1708 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] As you were informed in tonight's foreign reports, our correspondent interviewed Mr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, about the people of Palestine's Islamic uprising. Tonight's news bulletin, from the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ends with that report. Good night, and God bless.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent in Arabic] Dr. Shaqaqi, please tell us, what are the intifadah's latest activities in the occupied territories?

[Shaqaqi in Arabic] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One who knows the nature of the Zionist enemy and the means of oppression it practices against the Palestinian people and the intifadah, realizes

that a divine miracle is behind this intifadah while it lives on, strong and dynamic. [end recording]

[Announcer] Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi, the leader of Palestine's Islamic Jihad Movement, said: The uprising of the people of Palestine, intifadah, despite the Zionists' political, military, and security blockade, continues its active life with much more effectiveness every day.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit, Fathi Shaqaqi said: Intifadah entered a new phase since a few months ago, with the start of armed attacks against the forces of the Zionist regime. So much so that that regime [Israel] admitted that at least 27 armed operations take place in a week.

Referring to America's plot pertaining to the setting up of a conference to solve problems of the Middle East in a way which protects the interests of the Zionist regime, he said: The recent Persian Gulf war led to that U.S. action, and caused weakness and anxiety in Arab governments in their confrontation against American conspiracies.

Fathi Shaqaqi said: The only way to counter those conspiracies is to expand the intifadah and the anti-Zionist operations in the occupied territories, and also the solidarity of all regional anti-Zionist forces.

The leader of Palestine's Islamic Jihad Movement stressed: The setting up of that conference [Middle East peace conference] would have no effect on the fate of the Muslim people of Palestine, and the struggle to annihilate the al-Quds occupying regime will continue as before.

In another part of his interview, Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi pointed to the presence of organizations such as Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and the PLO in occupied Palestine, and said: Islamic Jihad and Hamas, with Islamic ideology, and the PLO with nationalist thought, will continue their moves in those lands. He added: The PLO admitted Israel's existence, and has chosen diplomatic and political means. This issue is the axis of our differences with them [the PLO]. However, if they consider armed Jihad against the Zionists as the only path to the freedom of Palestine, and reject any sort of negotiation with the Zionist regime, we will be at their side and create a united front against the occupying regime.

He referred to the transfer of Jews, especially Soviet Jews, to occupied Palestine as a dangerous plot designed to wreck the population make up in occupied Palestine, and said: It has been predicted that one to 1.5 million Jews will be transferred from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine alone. He stressed that the Muslim Palestinian people will seriously confront this plot, and warned Jews not to allow themselves to be transferred to occupied Palestine, as those lands will be converted to hell for them.

The leader of Islamic Jihad reiterated Islamic Iran's all-encompassing and total support for the uprising of the Muslim Palestinian people, and said: The Islamic revolution caused the Islamic movements in the region, especially inside Palestine. Following the guidelines from his eminence Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, concerning support for Palestine's aspirations, Islamic organizations were formed in Palestine. The role of the Islamic revolution and its great leader in the creation and expansion of the struggle against arrogance and Zionism cannot be denied.

Dr. Shaqaqi said: Iran was the only country to oppose the international conference. Without this stance, other participating countries may have approved this conference by adopting a compromising position. He stressed: The people of Palestine see that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, condemned the Middle East conference in his messages to the heads of state of Islamic countries and called for their support for the aspirations of the Palestinian people. The leader of Islamic Jihad of Palestine thanked his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, for his guidelines and the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying: Currently, the people of Palestine are watching this position and its developments.

Iraq To Accept Gazans Expelled From Kuwait

JN0309071891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Sep 91 pp 24, 18

[Excerpts] Amman-AL-DUSTUR—Mr. Ghazi al-Surani, chairman of the follow-up committee for the Gazans in Jordan, affirmed that the efforts of the committee have met with generous sympathy from the Iraqi leadership, regarding the problem of the Gazans who carry Palestinian documents issued by Egypt, who have been expelled by Kuwait to the region of Safwan. He added that an agreement in principle has been reached to find a way out for them by allowing them to reside in fraternal Iraq, despite the current circumstances and its wounds.

He added that those exiled to Safwan are living under extremely difficult conditions. Nobody is taking care of them, neither the Arabs nor the international community, despite their tragedy. [passage omitted]

He said that an Arab country is publicly conspiring with Kuwait, regrettably so, and appointing its own subjects in place of the Palestinians there.

He went on: The problem is not over yet since Iraq cannot absorb all the exiles, especially since their numbers are in the tens of thousands. There are also problems regarding the families of those who carry temporary passports, and whose wives carry Palestinian travel documents. [passage omitted]

UNLI Urges Nonresident Jerusalemites To Return

JN0209190291 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] has urged Palestinians to make a stand against the gradual Judaization of occupied Jerusalem by the Zionist occupation authorities calculated to liquidate the Palestinian presence there. The intifadah statement—titled "The Call for Steadfastness"—featured a special program for Jerusalem, to which it urged adherence. It also warned whoever sells property to the Zionist occupation authorities and ordered that they be meted out the punishment of execution. It advised propertied nonresident citizens of Jerusalem to return to their homes in order to deny the Zionist entity the chance to seize their property and transfer it to Zionist colonialists.

PLO Spokesman: Meeting With PNSF Postponed

JN0209125691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] In Sanaa, the meeting scheduled for yesterday between PLO officials and Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] representatives has been postponed. This was stated by a PLO spokesman in the Yemeni capital who also said the PNSF delegation is still expected to arrive in Sanaa.

It is worth recalling that the Sanaa meeting seeks to provide a broader representation for Palestinian factions in the next Palestine Nation Council session, expected to convene in mid-September in Algiers.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on 'Precedence' of Government

NC3108091991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has said that no rifle can take precedence over the rifles of the Lebanese Army and the country's legitimate authorities. He said: We base this conviction on our relations, alliance, and understanding with Syria.

He added: We have not heard anything to indicate that the Lebanese Government will challenge or obstruct resistance against Israel. Had the situation been different, then our stance would be different too.

In an interview with the Voice of the Lebanon's "Saturday Salon" program, Jibril said the armed Palestinian presence must be governed by an agreement with the Lebanese Government and coordinated with Syria to confront Israel in southern Lebanon. He added that what happens after Security Council Resolution 425 is implemented can only be determined by future events.

Jibril expressed the belief that Israel will build settlements in the south if the resistance operations are ended, in line with the example of what it did in Jordan. Israel had not dared build a single settlement in the West Bank and Gaza when there was an armed Palestinian presence there, but it has built 250 since this presence ended in September 1970.

Jibril also noted that no Israeli settlements were built in the Golan Heights when fedayeen operations were still being carried out there, but 35 settlements have now been built.

'Arafat Comments on Government in Exile

JN3008153991 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, said that the present situation is inappropriate for setting up a Palestinian government in exile.

In a press interview published in Paris, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that the Palestine National Council will meet in Algeria in the second half of September. He expressed his belief that no Arab leader will participate in the proposed Mideast peace conference so long as the Jerusalem question will not be taken up by the conference.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat emphasized the sharp differences between the U.S. and European positions. He pointed out that the Europeans constantly assert the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He added that the Europeans are calling for a peace conference and persistently asking Israel to stop settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

Concerning Jerusalem, brother Yasir 'Arafat said that the position of Europeans is clear. As for the Americans, they are gradually tilting in favor of the Zionist entity's position.

Algeria

Iran's Velayati on Meeting With Bendjedid

LD0209202391 Algiers ENTV Telvision Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received today at the presidential palace Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who handed the President a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati gave this statement on leaving the presidential palace.

[Velayati, in Persian with superimposed Arabic translation] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. The talks with the president were valuable and positive. We gave him Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message. We also gave him a report about the results of our talks with the Algerian officials, especially the talks with our brother Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the foreign minister.

We agree with the Algerian brothers, especially my colleague Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, that the exchange of visits would continue; and also the exchange of views between us and Algeria about the international issues, especially the issues of the Islamic world and also the issues of the bilateral relations.

Brahimi, Belkhadem Hold Talks With Velayati

LD0109220191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Tete-a-tete talks brought together Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the foreign minister, and Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, at villa Djenane El Mithak today. The discussions were extended after that to include the members of the two delegations. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, and current international affairs.

Mr. Velayati was also received this evening by Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, the speaker of the People's National Assembly. The discussions between the two sides dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation, in addition to current regional and international problems.

FIS' Hachani Holds News Conference 2 Sep

LD0209214191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, member of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] Consultative Council and official in charge of the FIS Executive Bureau, held a news conference this evening at the Maghreb cinema in Bab El Oued.

At the start, Mr. Abdelakader Hachani analyzed the political situation in Algeria. He recalled the obstacles which obstructed the FIS in the political arena, particularly in the municipalities and the media blackout.

Mr. Abdelkader Hachani refuted the saying which stresses that the FIS wanted to assume power by force. He underlined that the FIS demand was clear: to revise the elections laws.

As for the reason for the FIS refusal to participate in the past two conferences with the government, Mr. Hachani said that that was due to the fact that the conditions for dialogue were not satisfied.

On this occasion he renewed the demands of the Consultative Council for the release of the detainees; lifting the state of siege; compensating all the victims; and reinstating the fired workers, whose number is estimated at 3,500 according to Mr. Hachani.

Mr. Hachani also recalled that the Executive Bureau is a transitional body and is still loyal to its leadership, which is still in prison.

Egypt

Government Memo Refutes Jordanian White Paper

NC0209102591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has refuted the allegations contained in the white paper issued by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the title "Jordan and the Gulf Crisis".

The Egyptian Government's memorandum to this effect, of which MENA has obtained an exclusive copy, gives the true facts surrounding these events, correcting the Jordanian white paper's nine false accounts of the circumstances surrounding initial and subsequent developments in the Gulf crisis.

The memorandum says the contents of the white paper are at variance with undeniable facts and distort history in a way that reveals dishonest intentions and infringes on the truth. It adds that every Arab government that cares about this nation's future has the duty to hasten to clarify the facts and put matters in their proper perspective.

Mubarak on Talks in Tripoli, Iraqi 'Aggression'

NC3108125191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1039 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has revealed that he told PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during their meeting in Banghazi that the Palestinian issue is "our issue and we are doing everything possible to resolve it."

The president added that 'Arafat told him that he has great confidence in Egypt and complete trust its efforts in this regard.

President Mubarak, whose remarks appear in today's issue of AL-MASA', also said that Jerusalem issue was the focus of his exchanges with Arab leaders in Libya. Mubarak said he discussed this subject with King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. He added that Jerusalem is not just Arab issue, but also an Islamic one. President Mubarak said that he told the Moroccan king that great care was needed in matters concerning the Arab and Islamic Jerusalem.

Asked about Kuwait's request for assistance to secure the release of its prisoners in Iraq, President Mubarak said: We are doing all we can on this matter, and consultations are being held to secure their release. Efforts are being exerted through the Arab League, international organizations, and other parties. President Mubarak expressed the hope that the prisoners are being well treated and remain so until their release.

Asked whether he considers Iraq's aggression against the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan to be a renewal of the threat against the Gulf region, President Mubarak responded by noting that Egypt issued a statement immediately after the incident denouncing this irresponsible action by the Iraqi authorities. The statement said that the operation confirmed that Iraq harbors designs which could bring further hardship on the Arab people, particularly in Iraq and Kuwait.

President Mubarak said: There is no doubt that a continuation of these actions would pose a great risk to the region. The Iraqi president must not bring more pain and suffering on his people.

President Mubarak described the Great Manmade River in Libya as a great project whose value will be best proven by time. Nevertheless, a project that will bring water to irrigate 150,000 feddans is bound to bring prosperity to our brother Libyans, and this is something that pleases us.

Concerning the opening of borders between Egypt and Libya, Mubarak said that this move came at the right time. Egypt has a million citizens in Libya who may find better employment opportunities there, and if one of them encounters trouble or obstacles, he will do what it best for him.

President Mubarak said: As for the issue of restricting travel, this is something that we cannot do, as it would be against the Constitution and the law. Freedom of travel is guaranteed by law, and we will not interfere with this right under any circumstances.

Musa Reiterates Call for Freezing Settlements

NC0109122091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today reiterated that Egypt attaches great importance to a freeze on settlement building in the occupied Arab territories during the stage of negotiations to achieve peace in the Middle East.

In a statement today, Musa said that President Husni Mubarak's initiative on linking a halt to settlement construction with a suspension of the Arab boycott against Israel provides "a strong impetus" to the peace efforts.

Musa Comments on Peace Process, Turkish Actions

NC2808182191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Arabs must use the cooperation between the two superpowers to their advantage and stop mourning the passing of the days of their rivalrly. The foreign minister asked: What did we achieve during the days of this international balance? He added: We have to face up to this situation, live with it, benefit from it, and build peace with it.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 30 August, Musa commented on the recent events in the Soviet Union. He said that we now must stop dwelling on the game of balances and one-upmanship and start talking about real solutions within the framework of what is possible and acceptable and through the cooperation, rather than the rivalry, of the two superpowers.

The foreign minister commented on the Middle East peace process in light of the proposed peace conference expected to be convened in October and the Arab-Israeli talks. He stressed that he will not allow any fait accomplis to be imposed on the Arab nation or the Palestinian people. He added: If Israel demands concessions, we will demand concessions too, as the issue must be treated as a package deal.

The foreign minister stressed that no one can accept that the Palestinian issue be allowed to drag on, as the time has come to tackle this issue at once on the basis of land for peace, adding that any fait accompli will be rejected. He noted that negotiations between the Arab and Israeli sides will be based on Resolutions 242 an 338, adding that the provisions of these resolutions are clear-cut and contain principles that are both valid and acceptable under international law.

He pointed out that the principle of land for peace, the principle of inadmissibility of acquiring territory by force, the principle of balancing rights and obligations, and the principle that negotiations necessarily entail a rejection of fait accomplis. This means that there is no room for any party to impose a certain situation on the other. [sentence as received]

He denied reports circulated by some quarters that Egypt had agreed not to table the issue of Jerusalem as a negotiating point and to defer it to a later stage. He

asked: Who said that? Certainly not any Egyptian official. The foreign minister said that East Jerusalem is occupied territory, and so whatever applies to the occupied territories applies to it as well. He added: Under no circumstances shall we accept the annexation of East Jerusalem to West Jerusalem, because the unification of Jerusalem in this way proceeds from faulty logic and an illegitimate base. He added: "The issue of Jerusalem is subject to the resolutions and rules put forward by the United Nations".

The foreign minister responded affirmatively when asked whether the United States is prepared to give guarantees to the Arab side. He said that a discussion is now under way between the United States and the parties concerned and that there are memorandums of understanding, guarantees, and assurances, adding that this process was still going on.

The Egyptian foreign minister dismissed reports that Egypt had remained silent over Turkey's 5-km incursion inside Iraqi territory. He said that what happened was the result of an earlier agreement reached between Iraq and Turkey—and one which had not been revoked—on hot pursuit operations against certain Kurdish elements who are working against the sovereignty of each state. He added that what happened came within the framework of this understanding.

Asked about the statements that the agreement had expired and thus no longer applied, he said: I am not talking about statements or rumors, I am talking about the basic issue. This border crossing was not intended to seize Iraqi territory, but rather was in line with a prior agreement between the two countries. He added: "We hope this chapter has been closed."

Musa Holds 'First' Meeting With Iranian Envoy

NC0109132091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here this afternoon with 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi, Iranian charge d'affaires, to discuss ways to bolster bilateral relations.

An official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has revealed that the Iranian ambassador [as received] emphasized Iran's positive approach and its interest in developing these relations in all spheres. The source added that Foreign Minister Musa welcomed the Iranian approach and emphasized Egypt's interest in strengthening its brotherly relations with Iran.

Egypt and Iran opened interests sections in each other's countries on 27 March. The Egyptian office in Iran is headed by Ambassador Ahmad Namiq. Today's meeting was the first between the Egyptian foreign minister and the Iranian ambassador.

PLO's 'Abbas Comments on Talks With Officials

NC2908121391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias, Abu-Mazin, has emphasized that his meetings in Cairo are part of the continuing Palestinian-Egyptian consultations, particularly considering the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Libya yesterday. 'Abbas noted that during the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, an agreement was reached on important steps on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and said he hopes that the upcoming Arab League meeting scheduled for 10 September at the foreign ministers level will remove differences, heal the rift, and restore solidarity among the Arab countries.

'Abbas said that last week's events in the Soviet Union are not a reason to postpone the Middle East peace conference. Commenting on the Palestinian position on the recent Soviet events, 'Abbas said that some 20 people assembled in front of the Palestinian embassy in Moscow to protest "personal statements" by some PLO leaders on the Soviet events. The Palestinian ambassador in Moscow explained to the demonstrators the official policy, as contained in PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The envoy explained to the demonstrators that 'Arafat stressed that Soviet events were "an internal affair" and that the PLO was concerned about the Soviet Union's unity and its continued effective role in the peace process and the development of Palestinian-Soviet friendship.

*Deposit Insurance Law in Process

91P40373A Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 5 Aug 91 p 1

[Text]The Banks Union chairman, Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz, has explained that the law regulating bank deposits will require that 25 percent of the amount deposited in all banks be held in reserve as security against risks, disasters, losses, and thefts. This is in support of a fund in which all full-service banks in Egypt must participate, even if they are joint-venture or foreign bank branches.

In his statement to MISR AL-FATAH, the Banks Union chairman added that the deposit insurance will be compulsory and required of every bank. He said that it had been decided that 100,000 Egyptian pounds, or the equivalent, would be the deposit limit covered by this insurance. He indicated that this law would become effective in a few weeks. Cleared by the State Council, it has yet to be passed by the People's Assembly.

In another development, Dr. Fu'ad Shakir, director general of bank oversight at the Central Bank, announced that the Egyptian Central Bank has contacted the Bank of Credit in Britain and Abu Dhabi for approval to include Egypt's share of the British Bank of

Credit and Commerce International in the proposal which Abu Dhabi presented last Tuesday to bear 75 percent of depositors' losses. Egypt's share in the bank was $400 million.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at Manmade River Project

LD0109121191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2017 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at inauguration of the "Great Manmade River" project near Banghahzi—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of all Libyan men and women at this historic hour I would like to express most profound thanks and appreciation to all the brothers and friends—the brothers and friends of the Libyans—who shared with us this immortal day and these historic hours. [passage omitted] Brothers, this event coincides with the 22d anniversary of the revolution. We do not want our celebration to be [words indistinct]. We want them to be actions that change life. We are very touched brothers and cannot even express our gratitude. Libyans are trying to contribute with this work to the building of progress in the Arab homeland. Libya has completed this work in difficult circumstances; it completed this while under an economic blockade imposed by the antiprogress and antipeople imperialism. This work was completed without aid from the major states, without loans from the world banks. We salute the Libyan males and females who contributed every day, every week, every month, every year, and on every occasion in the making of the Great Manmade River and shouldered its financing and costs, which run into billions. Arab oil is being burned without contributing to the Great Manmade River. We regret this very much, brothers.

Gunpowder, war, and recklessness cannot build the future; but these things exhaust the funds for building the future. Peace is what small peoples, like the Libyan people, require in order to direct their limited resources toward the building of progress, the making of life, and defeat of backwardness. This [pointing to the gushing water] is the policy of the Libyan people. More than one-third of the world is seeing it now. This is just one of the giant achievements. The Libyan people want peace, because with peace they can consecrate military capabilities for civil achievements.

But the enemies of civility, the enemies of civilization, the enemies of peoples do not want a small people like the Libyan people to enjoy peace and prosperity. The imperialist policy wants to bring the world to its knees, bring all the peoples of the world to their knees, so that imperialism may prevail. But we tell them that the policy of fleets, the policy of starvation, the policy of terrorism cannot build the future of the world. The future of the world is built by peace, freedom, the freedom of people, by equality and respect among human beings on earth. This is what builds the future of the world, builds civilization, and builds peace. The sound of the gushing Great Manmade River is stronger than the sound of the imperialist fleets which are scaring [tukhif] the Libyan people. The voice of the Libyan people is now stronger than the sound of the fleets, because it is the voice of life, the voice of water. And we have made from water everything that lives [Koranic verse].

Brothers, fleets cannot make the breakthrough to the future; water paves the way to the future for mankind. Wars, muscle-flexing, the use of force, and the policy of terrorism did not build glory in the past; the one who builds glory on the skulls of peoples cannot bask in it for long. Thus, imperialism is building glory on the corpses of peoples; and if it does build it, it will not be able to bask in it. The one who builds glory on the corpses of others cannot bask in it for long.

Brothers, if the policy of force, terrorism, destruction, and gunpowder could eternalize, (?Genghis Khan), Napoleon, Hitler, and Alexander the Great would all have lived forever. But they are all gone to the dump of history, and the peoples have won. [passage omitted]

The poor and barefooted peoples that ask for peace, life, and dignity will be the ones to live forever. Look at the people of Libya now, it is transforming land; the land that was turned into blood, misery, and hanging ropes by Europe has been transformed by the Libyan people into pure water that flows, forecasts life, and makes way for the future for millions.

This is the road for tomorrow. This is Libya's policy of terrorism, brothers. Let the third of the world witnessing this occasion bear witness that this is the kind of terrorism that imperialism faces. Know that this is what imperialism faces; this is what it describes as terrorism. This is the program.

Imperialism does not want life; nor does it want water or freedom or stability. It wants starvation for all; it wants misery and poverty, so that peoples kneel at its feet. But that will be impossible. Those who try to oppress peoples and subjugate them are the ones to collapse. Peoples are eternal; they survive. The Libyan people are eternal and survive. It blasts its way into the future with determination, faith, and persistence. It never gives in to America.

The Libyan people are willing to sacrifice thousands of martyrs. There are a million Libyans who are ready to become martyrs on this spot, on the Mediterranean coast, and in the Gulf of Surt in order to repel imperialism, to slap it across the face and to defeat it. We die in dignity as martyrs. [passage omitted]

We contribute to what imperialism terms a terrorism policy. Brothers, we contribute to the defeat of the desert, to the eradication of backwardness. Brothers, we teach the oppressors who only listen to the thunder of aircraft and the roar of fleets, who only speak the language of blockade, starvation, oppression; the language of missiles and of developing weapons of mass

destruction. We want to make them hear the voice of the builders of civilization: Those who rolled rocks to the river [Koranic Verse]. [passage omitted]

The Great Manmade River is in the heart of the Arab homeland and in the middle of the Arab nation. This nation, brothers—which has been facing the brawl of the enemies, i.e. the Zionists and the imperialist-racists—according to history is a nation of civilization and progress. We were the ones who taught them astrology, industry, medicine, math, geometry, and all sorts of sciences, which they are using today, to cow the Arab nation—notwithstanding the latter's great contribution to such sciences, which it did not use to oppress or to do evil; it used them for good deeds. [passage omitted]

Brothers, from here our voices are much stronger than the noise of aircraft and missiles, which are being readied at this moment to destroy the Arab nation. The noise, that the Great Manmade River is making now is much stronger than the noise of any fleet or any other force on earth. This one is life; that one is death. This is civilization; that is destruction. We make our voice heard asserting: We do not occupy ourselves, like them, with the development of weapons of total annihilation; nor do we occupy ourselves with the task of looking for pretexts to transgress upon others.

We say that the world is heading toward enviromental and social problems as well as food and water problems. We are here telling the world that half of the U.S. territory will be without water by the year 2000. Therefore, it would be better for the United States to use the money, which is being spent on fleets and nuclear weapons as well as on threats to peoples and the building of military bases, on its own future. By the year 2000 the United States will be 50 per cent short of its water needs. Half of the American states will be without water by the year 2000. Scientific reseach has affirmed such a fact. [passage omitted]

We say to them, brothers, about the wheat which has now become a weapon in the hands of imperialism—this is a lie which we are uncovering today on this historical occasion. There is no wheat crisis now. First, Asia produces as much rice as the world produces wheat. Second, the Soviet Union, which is now begging from America, produces as much wheat as America: 70 million tonnes per year. The area planted with wheat in the Soviet Union is double that planted in the United States: 60 million hectares as opposed to America's 30 million hectares.

Why does the Soviet Union or Sudan or Egypt purchase wheat from America? Or why does Libya purchase wheat from America? Why does America sell wheat? It is because America does not think about the hungry millions; there are 12 million Americans dying of hunger, living and being born on pavements, without homes and without shelter. The capitalist, imperialist administration does not think about these millions or their future at all. It thinks about suppressing other peoples. The Soviet Union imports wheat because it wants to feed every citizen. It produces as much as America and needs additional wheat so that it could distribute it among more than 200 million people. Egypt is the fourth [largest] exporter of rice. Thus, it is not hungry. But how come it needs wheat from America? Because it wants to distribute wheat like rice [as heard] amongst its population. America does not think about its inhabitants. For your information, the U.S. Administration has halted wheat planting on 55 million feddans in order to lower production and thus raise prices. America is a capitalist, imperialist institution searching for profit. It produces a little wheat but floods the world market with it, as if America has a surplus. It has no surplus. Imperialism does not care if millions die in America, Britain or elsewhere. It is concerned about buying people and making them bow.

These facts are fantastic; they are derived not from my head, but from books and scientific studies. We want to feed every citizen; we want to clothe every citizen; we want a house for every citizen. They say Algeria has a housing crisis. What does that mean? It is because it wants to build a house for every citizen. Have you heard of a housing crisis is America, even though there are 12 million Americans living on pavements? It is because the state does not think about these millions, whether they live on pavements or in hell.

However, we think about the living standard of every citizen. You all inspect your subjects and citizens; you see their houses and care for their education. However, in the imperialist states—there is no head of an imperialist power who inspects the conditions of the citizens. It is impossible. Thus, it is a terrorist policy for America to produce more wheat than the world. Morocco has a surplus in rice. That is it; to hell with America's wheat. If we want wheat, we do indeed purchase it wherever we find it in the market. Whom do we purchase it from? America. Why? Because America deprives its citizens, while putting the wheat on the market. [passage omitted]

Brothers, you all hear the news bulletins and read [the papers]. Every day we receive from the imperialist camp threats, blockades, boycotting, development of mass destruction weapons, bombing, AIDS, cancer, diseases—what a black dictionary this is! Every day we hear with our ears such language from the imperialist states—blockading Libya; the destruction of Iraq; the destruction of Lebanon; the slaughtering of the Palestinians; the crushing of the Arab nation; the annihilation of Vietnam and Nicaragua; the invasion of Panama and Grenada; the subjugation of South America; the crumbling of Europe; the crumbling of the Soviet Union; making Asia go hungry; the humiliation of Africa—this is the language we hear. Black, white, a lord, a poor man—these are all human beings, and God did not create them lord and poor—they are all from Adam and Eve.

Our voice is the voice of water; but at the same time it is the voice of resistance to defend this water—the future.

The people who have conquered the desert can conquer imperialism. This people fought Italy for a quarter of a century—at the time Italy was the most powerful state in Europe. The people fought it on camel and horseback and with simple guns. All attempts to defeat these peoples are doomed to failure. The fate of those who defend imperialism for their livelihood is death. The poor, backward, small in number, and illiterate Libyan people have made this eighth wonder without loans and without assistance. We asked our Arab brothers—who are rich because of oil—but it looks as if America prevented them. Regrettably they did not contribute; we have hope that they will do so in the next phases of the Great Manmade River. Perhaps in the past they did not believe that such a project would become a reality. Here it is; it has become a reality. America did not help us with all its might; the Soviet Union with all its might did not assist us. Neither the World Bank nor the IMF helped us. The people themselves built this; they build it with their income and national wealth. Therefore this people has the right to resist in defense of their achievement and gains which they built with their sweat.

Brothers, after this achievement American threats against the Libyan people will be doubled; this is proof that America is an enemy of progress, peace, prosperity, and life itself. After today you will see threats against the Libyan people doubled. Excuses and trivialities will appear, but the aim behind them will be to halt this water—to stop life. Here are the witnesses—the heads of state, the heads of government, ministers, and other delegations from one-third of countries of the world—they are all here. Let them bear witness that imperialist threats against Libya will escalate following this achievement, because imperialist policy is against a project such as this. But the Libyans should escalate too their preparedness to defend the Great Manmade River, life, and the future, and to defeat imperialism. We do not wish to flex our muscles. First, there is no comparison between a small and illiterate people like the Libyan people and American imperialism. No, it is useless to say: We shall defeat it, we shall destroy, we shall smash it. This we do not say. Our word is very humble, but it is exactly the right thing. We possess the right to die; we can die, but we do not kneel.

But at the same time we appeal on such an occasion to America and others to drop this evil policy; burn this bad dictionary of definitions; and move as an international group towards international cooperation and solidarity, to consolidate world peace and stand by those who are oppressed and subjugated: The Palestinians, the Africans and the colonized peoples struggling for their freedom.

This should be done to consolidate international cooperation, consolidate the United Nations, consolidate the UN General Assembly, which should dominate the Security Council. The UN Security Council should be a tool in the hands of the UN General Assembly; not an instrument in the hands of a superpower with a veto right, thus making UN Security Council a national security council for a state. We do not hate the Americans as Americans; we hate the imperialist colonialist policies. Subsequently, we view America only as a member of the United Nations. We do not take into account how many aircraft carriers, missiles, etc, it has. What does it mean if we calculated and found that it is stronger? Do we surrender? No, this route is rejected. Italy used to be like America: We did not capitulate. Vietnam did not make such calculations, and it triumphed. We do not fight with the Libyan Army; we do not have an Army. We do not fight with tanks or aircraft; we do not say that our aircraft and tanks are stronger than the Atlantic [alliance]. Never, this is not true. But we have a barefoot fighter who has a rifle, believes in his land on which he was born, who will defend it to death. Do they want to embark on an adventure against him? Let them do so. History has tried us before. Even if they were to annihilate us, I do not think they would be able to live on our land; or even if they defeated us, I believe that they would be able to do so for a short period. I believe that they would pay the price and then regret this adventure. They may hit us with long-range missiles and aircraft. This is expected, but it will be difficult for them to settle on our land. This land is hot underfoot.

Brothers, this is our language, and one-third of the world bears witness to this. And had it not been for the sound and wise orientations of Libya, you would not all have honored it with your presence on this historic day, to congratulate the Libyan people and invoke blessings on it. You know the truth, that the Libyan people does not practice terrorism, do not even know where America or Italy are situated. It does not know the map, and it has no aggressive relations with the nations present here. We have even forgotten our hostility toward Italy long ago. We only live on our land in the way you see before you. They say: No, live under our feet. We refuse, and what will happen will happen. You should bear witness to this.

We show enmity toward those who show enmity toward us, and we keep the peace with those who keep peace with us. If we want to eliminate hunger and thirst in the future we must eliminate exploitation, profiteering, and capitalism, and we must also eliminate the institution which despises human beings. The institution of colonialism and imperialism must be abolished. This is what we want, brothers. We want to grow rice in the countries which can grow rice. We want to grow wheat in the countries with possibilities for growing wheat. We want to feed 2 billion, 4 billion people in the year 2000. We need 1 billion cubic meters of water for these new billions [of people]. We must think about this. We have done exactly that, and we have contributed. The Libyan people have brought their modest contribution.

Let every people think along these lines and undertake such an action. America had better grow wheat and feed the hungry in America, and it had better contribute to the Libyan people with 170 million [dollars] instead of the 170 bombers with which it attacked Libya to obstruct this project and kill those in charge of it. This is what america has offered the Libyan people. An air raid with

170 aircraft to stop this project. I sincerely think it should have instead offered 170 million dollars or even 1 billion—it has the money—to the Libyan people.

Now the imperialist states are putting pressure on the small states, such as Chad, the poorest country in the world, and they tell them: You must establish multiparty politics. Come on. We are one poor class, what is this about multiparty politics? The party represents whom? It represents a class? We do not have long-established classes and old classes. We do not have lords. We do not have a rich class which possesses Fords, Mercedes, and Peugeots. We do not have such a class to set up a party to represent it. We are all one poor class—all these peoples.

They talk about multiparty politics in America. There is no multiparty politics in America; there is dictatorship, since one party rules. We all know that there is only one party in power. This party can be reelected every four years forever. And if this party falls, another party rules in its place, just one party. There is not even a union between the Republican party and the Democrats. Britain is also ruled by one party. And they ask other countries to open the door for the multiparty system. Good. Zaire now has eighty parties. All the countries that accepted pluralism are now in a state of complete paralysis. Strikes; there is nobody working. Every time two or three people get together, they make a decision. The question is not one of the multiparty or one-party system. The question is one of food, water, and peace. These are the serious questions we think about. Even if they pour bombs and weapons on us, our thinking remains sound and civilized; the thinking of a nation that respects life and other nations; a nation that respects its patrimony.

We are thinking about the question of food, water, and peace, not the question of the multiparty system. [passage omitted]

Regimes will not survive thanks to their military or police might, or thanks to the demagogy they practice or their deceit. These methods are bound to fail. The regimes will survive so long as the people eat and drink. Let the people eat and drink and establish the system they like. Multiparty politics cannot resolve the problem. The regimes which fell in Africa, the oldest of which was Haile Selaisse's regime, why did it fall? Not because there was a Marxist revolution, not at all. Haile Selaisse fell because there was famine in Ethiopia, starvation. Who said that Mengistu was better than Haile Selaisse? Hunger. Who said that the bourgeoisie was better that the feudal system in the 18th century? Hunger. There is no comparison between the bourgeoisie and the feudal system. This is a myth, this talk about a royal, republican, Jamahiri [of the masses], monarchist regime, and others. The real issue is that of food and drink. People will think about their freedom afterward. They eat and they drink and they can establish the system they like.

Now they are distracting your attention, all of you brothers, and the Third World states in particular. They are telling you: Your crisis lies in your political system; set up a puppet regime; establish multiparty politics and sectarianism and fight each other. This is a dangerous conspiracy. [They tell you] when you go hungry, come and we will give you wheat. You must first feed your hungry peoples. [passage omitted]

Brothers, let them hear our voice, the voice of peace, the voice of truth. We have confidence in ourselves. We built the pyramids; we built Marib Dam [in Yemen]; we cut the Suez Canal; and we cut the Great Manmade River. Although it is belittled now, our voice will remain a light on the conscience of humanity. And nobody will be able to rise above this voice, because it is the voice of truth, the voice of those who believe in an honorable life and are prepared to die for it.

Brothers, we do not know how to thank you for joining us on this eternal day. We hope to join you, all of you, state by state, in your achievements, in your festivities and occasions. These waters have travelled one thousand kilometers when they arrived today. Ten thousand machines paid for with the income of Libyans are used in the Great Manmade River. The wires used in the manufacture of these pipes, if we wrap them around the globe, would go around 250 times. If we put these pipes together, they would go all the way from Libya to India. The Libyans have done all this with their sweat, with their limited income. One hand builds while the other carries the weapon, for fear of a covetous attack like the attack by Italy and the attack by America.

Our struggle continues, and may peace be with you. [applause and chanting]

Sudan

SPLA Leader Garang Reportedly Ousted

AB3008182091 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Aug 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Our East Africa correspondent, Colin Blane, has been told that a group in the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, has toppled the SPLA leader, John Garang. The group is led by Commanders Riek and Lam Akol, and it is based at Nasir, east of Malakal, near the Ethiopian border. There have been reports of splits in the SPLA and disaffection with Garang before. On the line, Robin White asked Colin Blane how he came across the claim that Garang had been ousted.

[Begin recording] [Blane] I received a note from Commanders Riek and from Commander Lam Akol. I have known Commander Lam Akol for some time now. The note was very cryptic; it did not tell me what was going on, but the suggestion was that I should come to Nasir as

soon as possible because they had something very important to tell me. So I went to Nasir, and it quickly became apparent that they did indeed have something important to say, and they were convinced that the time had come to detach John Garang from the SPLA, which is what they say that they have done.

[White] How did you get to Nasir?

[Blane] Well, it is a fairly long journey because Nasir is one of the most [words indistinct] places in southern Sudan, and I had a three-hour plane journey to the Kenyan border and another two hours by plane into southern Sudan. There is small runway there, an airstrip built, I think, mainly on bricks. And we landed there, and after that there was a boat trip, so it was a fairly long journey to get to Commander Riek and Commander Lam Akol.

[White] And where exactly is Commander Riek?

[Blane] He is in a compound of thatched huts on the Sobat River, which is not very far from Nasir, and he has with a number of his men, and he, of course, is with Commander Lam Akol as well.

[White] Now, while you were there, you recorded an interview with him in which he was very (?worried) about Colonel Garang. Let us hear it.

[Riek] John Garang has run the movement alone in a very dictatorial, autocratic manner. He has oppressed, humiliated, degraded our people. He has now turned this movement into a reign of terror.

[Blane] Can you give us any examples of the sort of things he has done?

[Riek] He decides alone on the strategy, on prosecuting the war, on the policies which should involve all the high command. He has never called a meeting of the high command, and we are now eight years since the establishment of the high command. He has arrested a good number of the high command members, and even two other members of the previous transitional executive committee of the SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement]. He has arrested a lot of officers that differed with him politically without informing any person in the high command. In all the peace initiatives which were attempted, he has obstructed the process so that peace is brought about. The man is just a warmonger.

[Blane] You are effectively announcing the overthrow of John Garang. Have you enough support to make sure that it does not break fire?

[Riek] Yes, I am announcing the overthrow of John Garang beginning today. He is no more the leader of the movement. We have the forces: the highlands, the forces in Upper Nile, the forces in Baharagizan, the forces in Equatorial. The rank and file agree that he must go.

[Blane] Is there not likely to be a civil war within the SPLA, because John Garang is [words indistinct] to step aside and say take over?

[Riek] There will be no civil war!

[Blane] Is there not a real danger for the SPLA that the Sudan Government will see dissent in the movement and will press for a military victory?

[Riek] Our forces are on the ground, alert, ready to repulse any offensive from the Sudan Government.

[White] Okay, now, back to you, Colin Blane. That was your interview with Colonel Riek. In fact, how many men did he have with him when you saw him?

[Blane] (?It is difficult) to know exactly how many men he has in the area in total, but he had a bodyguard always outside the compound and around the (?huts) but this is very difficult to tell because it is very swampy and there could be camps all over the place. But the bodyguard was not large. It was a fairly small but well armed.

[White] Did Commander Riek seem nervous about what he had done or not?

[Blane] He seemed extremely the like. I think it is something that he and his colleagues had discussed for a long time. They seemed to have answers to most of my questions. Of course, I think the big unanswered question will be how much control they do have and how far they are able to command loyalty across the SPLA.

[White] Do you have any idea where John Garang is now?

[Blane] I believe that John Garang is somewhere else in southern Sudan. We have not been able to track him down here in Nairobi. Sometimes it is possible, but this time it was not. But I did speak to someone who is close to Col. Garang and he said that he was in southern Sudan.

[White] Presumably, he is not going to take this lying down?

[Blane] I think not. After all, you do not come to the top of a guerrilla organization like the SPLA, you do not stay at the top for eight years and fight a long war without being a very formidable character, and I think if he stayed tough to a whole series of different governments in Khartoum, he is certain to try to face up to this challenge from these other commanders. But they do claim that they have widespread support; they say that out of the 13 members of the SPLA High Command, seven are with them and only two are with John Garang. Very much should depend on how all this works out. But they do say that there has been widespread discontent, and that is not so easy, outside of the field of battle, to gauge. [end recording]

Garang Reportedly Sends Message, Claims Support

AB3108132591 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Nairobi, Aug 31 (AFP)—A Sudanese rebel leader reportedly ousted by his senior aides is still in charge, according to his supporters here who said they received a radio message from their chief on Saturday [31 August]. [passage omitted]

On Saturday, however, two SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] supporters in the Kenyan capital said Garang had radioed them from southern Sudan saying he was still in charge and was with seven senior SPLA commanders and was expecting an eighth to join him [out of 13].

Justin Arop, the movement's political representative in West Africa, and Captain Mario Muor, one of Garang's aides, said he had told them that the dissident commanders were isolated and it was still not too late for them to return and join him.

A Sudanese source in the Gulf meanwhile told AFP that he had spoken by telephone to Garang, who said he was preparing to attack the separatists. "We are now making the necessary preparations to contain this mutiny," the source quoted Garang as saying.

The sources in the Gulf said those against Garang wanted the south to secede from the country, while Garang supports Sudanese unity but wants the south to be free from Moslem domination.

Bahrain

Iraqi 'Infiltration' of Bubiyan Condemned

JN0109182391 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Manama, Sept 1 (GNA)—The Bahraini Council of Ministers expressed its concern and condemnation over the aborted Iraqi military infiltration of the Kuwaiti Bubiyan Island, describing it as a violation of resolutions of the Security Council and constitute a dangerous escalation posing a threat to peace and security in the region.

The council, chaired by the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, also hoped that such action would not be repeated in the future. [passage omitted]

Trade With Iran Increases 'Tremendously'

JN0109180691 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Manama, Sept 1 (GNA)—Commercial trading with Iran has increased tremendously since the beginning of the year, according to Director of Customs Khalil Ibrahim al-Mutawwa'.

Director shipping links between the two countries were set up earlier this year for the first time since the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr al-Mutawwa' told "GULF DAILY NEWS" that the government was encouraging Bahraini businessmen to trade with Iran by returning the customs duties to those merchants who re-export supplies to Iran.

Mr al-Mutawwa' said Iranian merchants who come on commercial dhows are allowed to trade in the markets without advance entry permits, on condition that they return to their country on the same dhow.

"A new regular sea line has been set between Mina' Salman and Mina' Bushehr and the first ship the Iran Hormuz 25, reached Bahrain on March 28, loaded with fruits, vegetables, rose water and carrying 15 merchants. It returned to Iran with 20 passengers," said Mr al- Mutawwa'.

He said this ship now calls at Mina' Salman every two weeks loaded with supplies and passengers.

He said the last sailing brought 194 passengers to Bahrain and took 193 passengers on the return journey.

Mr al-Mutawwa' said 60,422 consignments had reached the island since the line was opened.

There were 36,462 cartons of fruit and vegetables, while the rest were different supplies," he said. [no beginning quote mark as received]

Mr al-Mutawwa' stated that the shipments also included 24 cars, which belonged to passengers.

He said the exported supplies included clothes, foodstuffs and two used cars.

The total number of passengers arriving so far on these trips was 500, while 1,575 passengers travelled from Bahrain to Iran.

Mr al-Mutawwa' said Iranian dhows supplying the island with vegetables and fruit supplies are returning with electrical goods and new and second-hand cars.

He said dhows reaching al-Muharraq Port supplied the island with fruits and vegetables and left loaded with different supplies like washing machines, electrical hoovers, refrigerators and oils.

Importers can easily obtain a licence from the coast guard for the supplies they wish to import on these dhows, said Mr al-Mutawwa'.

"The immigration directorate has made it easier for the Iranian merchants to obtain visiting permits after they reach the island, provided the number of merchants reaching the island on each trip is less than 15, that an importer is willing [to] sponsor them and that they return on the same dhow to Iran.

"I hope that the merchants will use this opportunity to improve the trade links with Iran.

"Merchants could achieve this by contacting the commerce departments in Iran and establishing trade links.

"Iran has a big market of over 40 million in its population and Bahraini merchants could have a flourishing business."

Kuwait

U.S., British Bases Agreements in 'Final Stage'

NC3008162691 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI learned from Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo that Kuwait entered the final stage of developing security agreements with both the United States and Britain to establish military bases in Kuwait during the next 10 years. Despite Kuwaiti attempts to deny it, reports circulating recently about the establishment of military bases and the signing of bilateral security agreements between Kuwait and the United States and Britain have been confirmed. More than one Kuwaiti official, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, announced that Kuwait has called for establishing such bases.

The diplomatic sources told AL-AHALI that Kuwait will send its foreign and defense ministers to the United States and Britain soon to discuss these countries' participation in the security arrangements in Kuwait.

On whether these new agreements run counter to the Damascus Declaration, an Egyptian official has told AL-AHALI that these Kuwaiti measures contradict with the stand Kuwait adopted during the meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatories. He added that the issue will be raised during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus

Declaration countries in September or October. He added that contacts are under way among the signatories of the declaration to discuss this new development.

Information Minister on Security Talks With U.S.

JN0109182191 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Al-Shariqah, Sept 1 (GNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'cub said that the Damascus Declaration did not prevent any of its signatories to seek the assistance of any friendly country for certain security arrangements. In this respect Kuwait-American talks were under way for concluding facilities agreement, al-Ya'cub said.

He explained that reports on Kuwait lifting of boycott of American companies dealing with Israel were but attempts made by some conspirators to offend Kuwait.

In an interview with UAE [United Arab Emirates] daily 'AL- KHALIJ' published today, al-Ya'cub denied any laxity by his country's government in putting out blazing fire on oil wells explaining that 50 per cent of the blazing wells have been capped.

Al-Ya'cub underlined that the Kuwaiti Government gave top priority to the issue of Kuwaiti and Arab prisoners detained in Iraq.

He expressed the hope that international efforts would force Iraq to give accurate information about these prisoners.

Defense Minister Discusses Security Issues

LD3108212891 London KUNA in Arabic 1308 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim announced that he will visit Washington shortly to sign a security agreement, and pointed to the existence of similar contacts with Britain, and to a similar French interest in this respect. But he refused to define the security agreement as protection, emphasizing that Kuwait is a sovereign state and does not accept protection as such, though it does accept security and military cooperation.

The defense minister, in an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-DIRAH to be published next Monday, revealed the features of the security agreement with the United States and said it is concerned with military cooperation to keep peace in the region; protection of the two countries; storage of weapons and military equipment; and the carrying out of joint measures in Kuwait on land, sea, and in the air.

He stressed that the United States does not want a protection agreement because it has not signed any such agreements for 45 years. The Kuwaiti minister expressed his conviction that Kuwait does need external protection, but he said that he does not support the idea of the presence of foreign bases in Kuwait, "because Kuwait is small and the presence of bases in it makes it threatened all the time because of its proximity to the enemy." But he stressed that if the situation requires the presence of the bases politically, he would support it politically but not militarily. [as received]

He demanded that the security concept of the Gulf region be looked upon as whole, pointing to the existence of security agreements with many states, and said that Kuwait will be part of this and the deployment of weapons will be around it. Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah was categorical [in saying] that the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states, Egypt, and Syria have the same response. He said that the Gulf armies will not deter any possible Iraqi attack because they are represented symbolically in Kuwait and do not have the rapid deployment capabilities possessed by the superpowers. He mentioned that he had found understanding on the part of the Egyptian and Syrian presidents when he met with them and informed them of Kuwait's intention to sign agreements with foreign states and that they had welcomed the idea and expressed readiness to cooperate with these countries to protect the state of Kuwait.

On the other hand the Kuwait defense minister stressed that Kuwait's borders are secure as far as the possibility of the occupation of Kuwaiti territories by the Iraqi regime is concerned. He said that "this will not happen, but infiltration operations will not stop, which is something that happens in all states in the world."

He explained that the international forces deployed at the borders carry out observation operations, and pursuing infiltrators is not within their competence as this is Kuwait's responsibility, while the responsibility of the international forces is to watch the military in the prohibited zone and to ask them to leave it.

Concerning the recent Iraqi aggression against Bubiyan Island, the Kuwaiti minister confirmed that the Kuwaiti forces dealt with the Iraqi forces which tried to infiltrate the island with sufficient speed, a matter which led to the abortion of the aggression. Explaining the circumstances and details of the aggression, he said it took place in the afternoon of last Wednesday [28 August] when the Iraqis entered by small boats capable of entering shallow waters, accompanied by women and children in order to cover up their aggression so as to appear as fishermen. He disclosed that the Iraqi soldiers who took part in the aggression were carrying their military cards. He said that the Coast Guard Forces, which belong to the Ministry of Interior, arrested all those who were in the big boats. The small boats entered the island and those who were in them began to open fire at the Coast Guard Forces after they had taken cover in the trenches. He went on to say that it was decided after this to use the Air Force in view of the inability of the big Kuwaiti missile boats to enter the shallow water, in addition to the fact that the bridge which links the island with the Kuwaiti mainland was destroyed, a matter which does not allow passage to the island other than to the Air Force. He confirmed that the Kuwaiti Air Force carried out its task successfully in hitting the [Iraqi] elements on the island, and

the supporting Iraqi boats began to flee immediately after the arrival of the aircraft. The aircraft pursued the boats and destroyed five big ones and seven small ones, while the Ministry of Interior seized seven boats, including a big one. He said that Bubiyan lies 18-2-maritime miles from Faw island. Furthermore, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said that an inquiry is under way into the incident of the seizure of 18 Iraqi military vehicles lately and into the cause of the explosion at Iraqi munitions dumps despite that fact that no one was hurt as a result of this.

The Minister of Defense affirmed that Kuwait wants to have an effective regular army and that the F18 aircraft deal which existed prior to the invasion is still valid and that the first batch of these aircraft will be delivered to Kuwait at the beginning of next year. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti armed forces will not be of the same number as it was before the 2 August 1990 "since 75 percent of the members of the army were of no specific nationality, a fact which we have to declare openly."

He added that the operation to separate those who defended Kuwait with their lives and those who cooperated with the enemy is bound to take a long time but it will be precise. He warned that the ghost of the mines left behind by the routed Iraqi forces will continue to haunt Kuwait pointing to the continued purging and clearing operation which is expected to last for 1 and 1/2. He said the Iraqi regime left two thirds of its forces' arms and ammunition in Kuwait and consequently it is now suffering shortages particularly in southern Iraq where it is facing attacks by the opposition forces against its forces and institutions.

He added that Kuwait is awaiting the demarcation of its borders with Iraq to establish a strong defense wall which he described as the "Fourth Fence" comprising sufficient obstacles to stop ordinary infiltration operations. He affirmed that Kuwait is asking the Iraqi regime to return all that it has stolen including the Hawk missile [systems], tanks and helicopters, and that it has refused to accept tanks and helicopters that have been stripped of vision instruments, computers, and technical equipment. He said: "We demand the return of the arms arsenals before the arms themselves."

Bubiyan Incident 'Exploited' for Defense Pacts

NC0109174391 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 1 Sep 91

[By Michel Moutot]

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 1 (AFP)—Kuwaiti authorities, anxious to secure foreign defense pacts, may have exploited the capture of Iraqi civilians on Bubiyan Island last week to claim fresh military aggression by Baghdad, Western diplomatic sources said Sunday.

Kuwait last Wednesday charged that 45 Iraqi soldiers were captured as they were about to assault the uninhabited island in violation of the Gulf war ceasefire.

Kuwaiti planes, according to the official version here, destroyed 12 Iraqi landing vessels in the incident. The alleged attack prompted a warning to Baghdad from the U.N. Security Council and a protest by the United States.

Iraq has strongly denied that any military assault took place and said the captured Iraqis were pirates trafficking in arms left behind during the Gulf war.

"The affair has been blown up," said one Western diplomat.

"It clearly involved arms traffickers, who without a doubt were acting with a green light from the Iraqi authorities.

"The Kuwaitis are anxious to use it to tarnish still further the image of Iraq to step up the pressure, particularly concerning the release of prisoners of war.

"But they also want to pressure the Americans and possibly others" at a time when defense agreements are being negotiated.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has said he will travel soon to Washington to sign a security agreement with the United States. Contacts were also under way to forge a similar agreement with Britain, he added, while the French were also interested.

Kuwaitis, convinced that Iraq still poses a military threat, were relieved last week when the United States announced that some 1,500 of its troops would remain in the emirate for several months beyond the September 1 pullout date.

A three-man investigation team drawn from U.N. military observers stationed along the Iraq-Kuwait border on Saturday interrogated some of the Iraqi prisoners and inspected two vessels said by the Kuwaitis to have been used in the incident.

"But that does not confirm the military aggression thesis," argued one Western military expert.

An observation post staffed by the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) is located on Iraqi territory just opposite Bubiyan Island where the incident reportedly took place.

UNIKOM head, General Gunther Greindl of Austria, told a news conference Sunday that U.N. observers "didn't see or hear anything. We were informed (of the incident) by the Kuwaitis."

"We're determined to find the truth," he stressed. "It might be necessary to even expand the investigations."

A European observer, who asked not to be named, told AFP that U.N. "helicopter pilots flying over Bubiyan at low altitude could detect nothing at all. A landing and subsequent combat, even on a small scale, would leave some evidence."

Greindl said that on a visit Saturday to an Iraqi naval base in the southern port city of al-Basrah, an Iraqi commander and a liaison officer from Baghdad had both denied any involvement by their country's regular forces.

"They repeated that no Iraqi forces have taken any part in this incident. They're not recognizing that there has been an incident, but they're not denying it either. They say there was no participation by Iraqi forces."

The likelihood that the encounter on the island may have involved arms traffickers caught in the act by Kuwaiti coast guardsmen appeared to grow stronger Sunday following other remarks by Greindl.

"We know that civilians are also in the demilitarized zone (between Iraq and Kuwait), collecting ammunition and that they get money for it," he told journalists.

"They turn them in to the authorities and get money. So there might be some incentive for civilians to do that."

U.S. Army officers are likewise skeptical of the Kuwaiti line.

"Around September 1 (the original date for the pullout), we were expecting this kind of trick," commented one officer.

Kuwaiti, UNIKOM Officials View Bubiyan

LD3108182291 London KUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Aug (KUNA)—Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin met here tody with Major-General Gunther Greindl, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission [UNIKOM], to continue talks on the recent Iraqi aggression on the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan, immediately after his [Greindl's] return from Baghdad.

A Foreign Ministry statement received by KUNA stated that Shahin provided Major-General Greindl with further details on that serious transgression, particularly since it followed two attempts by elements of the Iraqi regime to infiltrate Kuwaiti territories within 10 days. The statement said that the Foreign Ministry delivered a message to the UNIKOM immediately after the incident took place, which included details of the Iraqi aggression against the Kuwaiti island. The statement added that the Ministry has been in continuous contact with the UN mission which, in turn, put UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in the picture from the outset.

The meeting was attended by the UNIKOM commander's aides and ambassador Khalid al-Duwaysan of the Foreign Ministry.

UN Team Visits Island

NC3108172291 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 31 (AFP)—The head of a U.N. observer force visited the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan Saturday and set up a commission to investigate an alleged Iraqi infiltration bid. General Guenther Greindl later returned to Kuwait via the southern Iraqi port city of al-Basrah, where he met that country's naval commander, a spokesman for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission (UNIKOM) said.

He said the UNIKOM chief "didn't see anything" on Bubiyan but decided to set up an "inquiry board, formed of three military observers: one Indian officer, one American and one Irish." "This board already obtained the full cooperation of both parties. They can go anywhere, talk with everyone. They are going to investigate in Bubiyan and in Iraq," the spokesman said. "Their mission will last as long as necessary. Not less than a couple of days, I think."

Kuwait has accused Iraqi troops of landing on Bubiyan Island overnight Wednesday and said they opened fire on Kuwaiti soldiers from bunkers used in the Gulf war. The authorities here say they captured 59 Iraqis and that Kuwaiti planes sank several small Iraqi craft.

Iraq has denied the report and said the captured Iraqis were pirates trafficking in arms left behind during the war.

Western diplomatic sources in the Gulf believe clashes took place on Bubiyan but say Kuwait appears to have exaggerated the facts to discredit Iraq. The infiltrators were probably elements not directly under the control of Baghdad or even Shiite rebels searching for arms to fight the Iraqi Army, the sources said.

Iraq occupied Bubiyan during its invasion of Kuwait and has long sought to annex the island because of its strategic location at the mouth of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, its only outlet to the sea.

Iraqis Only Attempted Bubiyan Attack

LD0109175391 London KUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Sep (KUNA)—Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, affirmed that all elements which took part in the recent Iraqi aggression against the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan were Iraqi nationals.

In a statement today, al-'Uthman denied that non-Iraqi elements participated in the Iraqi aggression against Bubiyan.

As to whether there was any conflict between the Damascus Declaration, which was concluded between the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries and Egypt and Syria, and the security agreement which is to be signed between Kuwait and the United States, Minister al-'Uthman affirmed that there is no contradiction between the two agreements adding that the Damascus Declaration does not prevent any member country from signing such an agreement (as that with the United States).

Government Discusses Bubiyan Infiltration

LD0109190491 London KUNA in Arabic 1343 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 1 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwait expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the sisterly and friendly states which expressed solidarity with it and condemned the latest Iraqi aggression against the Kuwaiti Bubiyan

Island. Kuwait also urged the international community to deter the Iraqi regime from continuing its disdain for international legitimacy and make it adhere to the implementation in full of the Security Council resolutions pertaining to Kuwait.

This was stated in a press statement read out by the Dhari 'Abdallah Al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, after an ordinary session of the Council of Ministers held today under His Highness Shaykh S'ad Al-'Abdallah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. Al-'Uthman made clear that at today's session the Council reviewed the circumstances, details, and conditions surrounding the abortive attempt by the forces of the Iraqi regime to infiltrate Bubiyan Island, after a number of military boats belonging to the Iraqi regime attempted to land on the island, whereupon the Kuwaiti coast guard and armed forces dealt with the attempt, aborted it, and liquidated it quickly decisively in a manner that has won admiration and appreciation at all levels. [passage omitted]

EC, Asian, African Envoys Denounce Iraqi Act

LD0209135191 London KUNA in Arabic 1308 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 2 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin had separate meetings today at the Foreign Ministry with the ambassadors of the EC and Asian and African countries in Kuwait. KUNA has learned that al-Shahin acquainted the ambassadors with the latest developments in the case of the Iraqi aggression on the Kuwaiti island of Bubayn and the flagrant violation this aggression constitutes of the UN Security Council resolutions on the cease-fire in the Kuwait liberation war. Views were exchanged during these meetings on this matter. All the EC, African, and Asian countries' ambassadors expressed their countries' support for Kuwait and their denunciation of this aggression, which comes at a time when the world is working for the establishment of stability and security in the region. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier Briefed on USSR Events

LD0209133591 London KUNA in Arabic 1306 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Sep (KUNA)—The deputy Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, today discussed with Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev the latest developments in the USSR and the recent declaration of independence by the Baltic republics. Following the meeting, Shaykh Salim told KUNA that the Soviet ambassador gave him a detailed and precise report about the events in the USSR in the light of the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Qatar

Bubiyan Island Incident 'Strongly Denounced'

LD3008210491 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Doha, Aug 30, SPA—Qatar today strongly denounced the Iraqi infiltration into Kuwait territorial waters and the landing of troops Wednesday on Kuwaiti Bubiyan Island. In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, an official source said that this act of aggression is a clear violation of Kuwaiti sovereignty, U.N. resolutions and the ceasefire. This serious aggression exposes the Iraqi regime's hostile and expansionist designs against Kuwait, the official source added.

Yemen

Talks With Iran Held on Palestine Situation

LD0109104391 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Sanaa, Aug. 31, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister for Afro-Arab countries Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, submitted a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his Yemeni counterpart 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih Friday.

During the meeting, Sheykholeslam briefed the Yemeni president on Iran's stance on the Palestinian issue and the holy Qods [Jerusalem].

He also termed the U.S.-proposed Middle East conference as a "plot against the Islamic and Arab ummah aimed at destroying the cause of Palestine."

"Qods belongs to the Muslim world and therefore it will never allow Israelis to decide its fate," Sheykholeslam said.

In case the U.S.-proposed peace conference is held, it would be unable to settle the issue of Palestine and the heroic Palestinian strugglers would never accept its humiliation, he said.

The Yemeni president hailed Iran's position towards the Palestinian issue as a great, unchangeable stance. He also expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would play its basic role under present conditions.

Sheykholeslam had a separate meeting on Saturday with Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani who said liberating holy Qods was a religious duty.

Reiterating Iran's effective role in the issue, the Yemeni foreign minister announced Sanaa's preparedness to cooperate with Iran in this regard.

Minister Condemns UK, Arab Statements on Bubiyan

JN3008165691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Yesterday, Kuwait's representative to the United Nations submitted a memorandum to the Security Council president in which he said that 12 boats belonging to the Iraqi Navy, with armed Iraqi units on board, attacked Bubiyan Island with heavy weapons. However, the Kuwaiti Air Force and Coast Guard deterred this large-scale attack, completely destroying seven of the Iraqi craft. The other five boats fled. Kuwait's representative asked the Security Council to take strict measures to deter Iraq.

Before Britain and some Arab regimes, which follow on the American heel, ascertained the truth, they issued statements condemning this alleged aggression. They condemned Iraq and demanded that a firm stand be taken against it.

UN observers in the same region, where there are no Iraqi troops or divisions, said they flew over the island yesterday with a helicopter and saw nothing taking place. Neither did they meet a single injured or captured Iraqi. However, they are investigating the incident.

The Americans said it is possible that some civilians are infiltrating for purpose of smuggling. However, the Americans believe this incident is very minor and isolated.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi spoke to INA and commented on the statements by Britain and some Arab regimes. He said: The statements that were issued by the regimes conspiring in the Arab nation, whether those with an Arab identity or Britain, affirm once again that many of the regimes in today's world are not interested in the naked truth. They are driven by lies and cheating, which lure them when they become tools for vile political purposes.

The minister of culture and information said: Every day, the conspiratorial Arab regimes affirm that their collusion over Iraq is not the mistake of a certain stage, but the continuation of entrenched motives based on deep grudges nestled in their minds to provide the imperialists and colonialists with voluntary or involuntary services to harm not only Iraq and its people, but the whole Arab nation.

The role of betrayer was not one assumed under the special circumstances called the battle for Kuwait. It is a role that has permanently attracted them. Otherwise, what does rallying behind the conspiratorial Al Sabah lies mean—lies based on trivial allegations with no form or purpose.

Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi concluded his statement: All cards were played in the mother of battles. Nevertheless, subsequent events, one of which is the false claim about an Iraqi landing on Bubiyan, confirm that creating pretexts to harm the Iraqi people continues, and that the Al Sabah family conspired, and continues to conspire over Iraq and the Arab nation. It is not content with committing the crime of restoring colonialism to the region and imposing it on the peoples of the region and Kuwait. It looks for veils to cover its crime through a series allegations that justify setting up suspect alliances and keeping foreign forces in Kuwait and the Gulf.

Attack on Southern Areas Linked to Bubiyan Raid

NC0109141491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The defeated tyrant's forces have shelled a number of cities and villages in the south, killing hundreds of our Iraqi people. The barbaric shelling of six villages in the Suq al-Shuyukh area destroyed a many houses and killed many people.

In a statement to the Voice of the Iraqi Opposition, an opposition source linked this barbaric attack with the raid by a group of the tyrant's forces on Bubiyan Island. He said that the raid was staged to divert world attention from the crimes the tyrant regime is committing against our people in the south.

Jalal Talabani Addresses Irbil Masses 29 Aug

NC0109190891 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Sep 91

[First part of speech by Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, at a mass rally in Irbil on 29 August; translated from Kurdish—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] O struggling masses of Irbil, O heroes of noble Irbil. In the name of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, I salute and bless your spirit of steadfastness, resistance, and sacrifice. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, there is no doubt that you are awaiting news of developments in Kurdistan, particularly news of the negotiations between the Kurdistan Front and the Iraqi Government. It is your natural right to know what point these negotiations have reached, in what direction they are moving, and what the views and stands are of your struggling union, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Dear brothers and sisters. I think that it is necessary and that it is our duty to explain to you the following facts:

1. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan has and continues to view the negotiations and dialogue as one of the means of political struggle to achieve the goals of the people of Kurdistan. Negotiations do not take place as a result of the desire of one party, but are dictated by subjective and objective circumstances, which prompt opposing parties to meet after all other means of struggle fail to drive the other party out of the arena or to destroy it. You know very well that the Iraqi Government has tried with all its capability and weapons, including

chemical weapons, and with all its savageness and harshness, particularly during the notorious (al-Anfal) operations, to suppress the Kurdish revolution and destroy the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. But the result of all these actions was embodied in the historic uprising of the Kurdistan masses this past spring, the spring of freedom which lasted only for a few weeks, during which—and for the first time in the history of Kurdistan—all the cities and areas of Kurdistan were liberated, including your noble city of Irbil. This was achieved through your own efforts and those of all the masses of Kurdistan and by your unceasing resources and capabilities, without any outside help. This uprising achieved unity among our people and mobilized all their resources in the struggle. [passage omitted]

In its ebb and flow, the popular uprising has achieved numerous important results for our people and their just cause. But we must recognize another fact, which is that the Kurdish revolution was unable to topple the government in Baghdad and achieve democracy in all of Iraq, just as Iraqi governments have failed in their attempt to destroy the Kurdish revolution and destroy the people's legitimate aspirations. This fact was one of the reasons for the dialogue between the Iraqi Government and the democratic liberation movement of Kurdistan's people.

2. Negotiations do not mean surrender at all. They do not mean acceptance of the Iraqi Government's views and analyses. They also do not mean acceptance of and submission to the demands agreed to only by the Iraqi Government. They mean a struggle to achieve all our masses' just demands and to bring about democracy and national rights for Iraq and Kurdistan, or at least to achieve the minimum of our people's demands. Therefore, if the Iraqi Government does not fulfill our people's minimum demands, this would emphasize the historic fact that by failing to meet these minimum demands, the Iraqi Government once more proves it does not want to resolve the Kurdish problem through peaceful and constructive dialogue, that it does not want to learn from history, and that it does not want to replace dictatorship with democracy. It would prove that it only wants to change, through tricks and ploys, the outward appearance of the regime. Thus, if the Iraqi Government does not fulfill our people's minimum demands, our masses must shoulder the following vital tasks:

First: It is very necessary to protect the unity of our Kurdish people's ranks, the Kurdistan Front, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], because all of them [words indistinct] to protect the revolution and the struggle. Safeguarding the unity of the people and the Kurdistan Front guarantees the continuation of the revolution and its struggle. [passage omitted]

Second: Development of the PUK will be an important and effective factor in safeguarding the sound and correct course of the revolution and its slogans. It is a blessed task which all of us must shoulder, because without defining and protecting the right course—the military and diplomatic course, including the option of dialogue and sound negotiations—we will not triumph in our struggle and dialogue and negotiations will not be fruitful.

Third: The masses must be informed of all details of the negotiations and the stands of the government and the Kurdistan Front so we can mobilize our masses' inexhaustible forces and resources to serve their aims and ambitions. The masses have the right to know what is happening, because this knowledge will help them shoulder their role and tasks as best as they can.

Fourth: The Kurdistan Front must exploit all its weapons and use them during the political struggle, including the front's and masses' resources, support and solidarity from other countries and peoples with the Kurdish issue, and the righteousness and fairness of the Kurdish people's legitimate demands. [passage omitted]

Fifth: One of our duties is to insist on the democratic and patriotic principles: the principle of true democracy for Iraq and the right to self-determination for Kurdistan's masses as part of a democratic Iraq acceptable to them, that is either a federal democracy or true autonomy for the Kurds, Assyrians, and Turkomans of Kurdistan over all the territories of Iraqi Kurdistan, including the city of Karkuk that today personifies Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Karkuk is an age-old Kurdish city and will remain so. But from the time the Ba'th Party first seized power in the February 1963 coup, the beloved city of Karkuk has been subjected to the most violent campaign of Arabization. Contrary to all historic evidence and facts, and to all the requirements for protecting Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and national unity in Iraq, the Ba'thists in Iraq have continued to expel Kurds and Turkomans from Karkuk and to bring in Arab tribes and settlers to the city and its suburbs. This hateful racist policy is continuing today. The latest example of the Arabization process was the decision issued by Hashim Hasan al-Majid, governor of the so-called al-Ta'mim Governorate on 4 August 1991, No. 4/6410. It distributed the lands of Karkuk to Arab settlers who have been brought in from outside the city and ordered the building of houses for 2,726 Arab families. Each family was given 30,000 dinars in addition to increased government allowances. The sole aim is to Arabize Karkuk.

The real reason for the Arabization process undertaken by the authorities does not stem from the regime's love and affection for its Arab citizens. I believe that not even the deadliest enemy of the Arabs has committed treason and crimes against the Arab nation such as the ones committed by the Ba'th Party. I believe the real reason behind the Ba'th Party's racist, criminal practices is the one voiced by a Ba'thist struggler, Hilal Naji, during the time of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. Hilal Naji said: The reason for the Ba'th Party's occupation of Karkuk city and its Arabization is that the party covets its oil. This explains the Ba'th Party's attempt to control and plunder all the Kurdish people's resources.

In addition, no honorable Kurd can abandon Karkuk. As a result of these Ba'thist's practices, Kurdistan's masses have raised the slogan that Karkuk and Khanaqin [words indistinct] until the last breath. Therefore, the authorities are attempting, through their practices, to ignite a war that will not be extinguished until the day when the forces of injustice, evil, and aggression collapse before the forces of good and justice. Still, the PUK will continue to pursue the course of the peaceful political dialogue to find a just solution for the Kurdish people so that peace and stability will prevail in Iraq and the Kurdish people can live safely on its lands, rebuild what has been destroyed at the hands of aggression, and contribute seriously and effectively in protecting Iraq's independence, rebuilding it, and achieving freedom and democracy for all the Iraqi masses, at least for the next 15 to 20 years.

Second Part of Talabani Address

NC0209184491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Second and last part of speech by Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, at a mass rally in Irbil on 29 August; translated from Kurdish—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Sixth: It is our duty to protect the legitimate rights of the brother Turkomans and Assyrians. It is our duty to protect their democratic, national, cultural, and administrative rights. The credibility of the Kurdish liberation movement regarding democracy and human rights will not be realized unless we preserve and defend the rights of the brother Turkomans and Assyrians. Therefore, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan will neither accept nor ignore the chauvinistic policies pursued by Baghdad against our historic brothers.

Seventh: It is our duty to protect the rights of our brother Yazidis, who have lived in Kurdistan for thousands of years. It is also our duty to protect our brother Failis [Kurdish exiles], who must return to their previous residences, must recover their jobs and properties, must be compensated for their losses, and whose Iraqi nationality must be restored. [passage omitted]

Without the achievement of the legitimate rights of our brother Turkomans, Assyrians, Yazidis, and Failis, autonomy loses its meaning. Therefore, we must insist on their demands and struggle to achieve them. [passage omitted]

Regime Kills 'Hundreds,' Uses UN Markings

LD3108101791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Hundreds of Iraqis, who had taken refuge in Iraq's southern marshes, have been massacred in extensive attacks by Iraqi Army Artillery and helicopters this week. [passage omitted] The Iraqi regime used a helicopter with a UN flag during the past few days for the reconaissance of marshlands in the south of that country.

Minister Denies Ties to Kurdish Rebels in Turkey

JN3108150091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has denied that Iraq has any relationship or link with elements from the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] in Turkey.

In a press statement at Istanbul airport yesterday, which was published in Ankara today, where he stopped over in his way to Ghana to attend a Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers' meeting, the foreign minister said: We have never supported anyone against Turkey in the past. Nor would we do that in the future.

In his statement, reported by the INA correspondent in Ankara, the minister said: Iraq regrets the foreign troops' presence on Turkish soil because we know that this presence is directed against Iraq, and we are very certain that the Turkish people are against using these foreign troops against Iraq.

The foreign minister added: I say once more that we have no relationship whatever with PKK elements, and we have never backed their operations in Turkey. However, the presence of foreign troops in the region has caused serious problems for Iraq and Turkey, and all states in the region. The foreign troops may have allowed the use of northern Iraq as a base for PKK elements to launch their operations against Turkey because the area is under their control.

The minister said: The region will see stability and security once these troops withdraw. The Turkish Government knows well who supports the elements of that party.

Official on Visit to Tehran; Iranian Group Due

JN0209083591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0757 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal said that the Iraqi delegation visited Iran with an open heart and mind and with a sincere desire to improve and promote future bilateral relations in the interest of both countries.

In a statement to AL-'IRAQ published today, he added: The results of our visit to Tehran were good and useful within the framework of exploring both sides' views and stands on all issues.

He explained that Iraq and Iran are two neighbors bound by numerous ties, compounded by the overall importance of the region. He said that creating a state of peace and stability between the two countries will undoubtedly have positive effects on the region in general.

Responding to a question on the issue of POW's and MIA's from both sides, the Foreign Ministry under secretary said: We discussed many issues with Iranian officials, foremost among them being the exchange of POW's, the search for MIA's, and the return of Iraqi refugees who were forced to move to Iran by the circumstances of the 30-state aggression. He added: We have also agreed that it is important to resolve these outstanding problems swiftly and to take steps to help forge and fortify new relations, based on respect for the political options of the other side and stressing the importance of reestablishing a climate of understanding and trust between the two countries.

AL-'IRAQ says that a high-level Iranian delegation will soon visit Iraq to continue the dialogue aimed at enhancing the bridges of trust between the two sides.

It is worth mentioning that Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal recently visited Iran, heading a delegation comprising a number of senior officials from the Foreign Ministry and other ministries. He held important and serious talks with Iranian officials, particularly Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The talks were aimed at assessing bilateral relations and appropriate means to promote them on the basis of mutual respect for both countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, and within the framework of the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Ba'th Party in Syria Urges Support for Baghdad

JN0109163491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, 1 Sep (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Provisional Regional Command in Syria has called on the Arab masses and their political forces and trade unions to act practically and effectively to remove injustice, to cancel the disgraceful UN Security Council resolutions against the Iraqi people, and to foil the conspiracy targeting the pride, heroism, and loftiness of Iraq.

In a statement in this regard, it stressed that bolstering Iraq's steadfastness—supporting its besieged people, and breaking the shackles imposed on them—constitute the means to foil the conspiracies and schemes to humiliate the Arab nation, fragment its unity, impose capitulatory solutions on it, and liquidate its pan-Arab cause, the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

The statement denounced the unjust resolutions the UN Security Council issued recently, numbered 705, 706, and 707. It stressed that the least to be said about these resolutions is that they lack the minimum level of any human, moral, or material commitment toward an entire people. The statement said that in letter and spirit, these resolutions conflict with the UN Security Council's duties and tasks, with the UN principles and charter, with the rights of states and peoples, and with human rights that are recognized by international charters and laws.

'Text' of New Political Parties Law

JN0309081191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued Political Parties Law No. 30 of 1991. The law, which will be in force as of the date its publication in the Official Gazette, includes six chapters dealing with the basic principles and the procedures of founding the political party, its structure, rights, duties, and finances, in addition to general rules.

Among the reasons for legalizing this law is that it confirms the policy of the 17-30 July revolution of entrenching the rules of democratic practice, in accordance with the stages of the new political, economic, and social developments in the life of great Iraq. This policy is also in accordance with the objective of allowing, on a larger scale, all citizens who so desire to serve the country and to reinforce its sovereignty, independence, and unity. They can do so by contributing to political life in a responsible, peaceful, and democratic way through dialogue in which opinions, expertise, and experiences are exchanged.

The reasons for legalizing the law also noted that this law came about for the sake of establishing political parties on democratic and national bases, especially since they, the political parties, constitute one of the basic pillars of the democratic system through which the citizen exercises his rights, duties, and freedom.

The text of the law issued by the RCC reads: Based on what was approved by the National Assembly, in accordance with Article 53 of the Constitution and Paragraph "Second" of Article 47 of the amended National Assembly Law No. 55 of 1980, and based on the provisions of Paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decided to issue the following Law No. 30 of 1991: Political Parties Law:

Chapter 1: Basic Principles.

Article 1: The party is a political organization consisting of people that have common principles and objectives, and a specific and declared program. The party works through legitimate peaceful and democratic means within the republican system, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

Article 2: Every Iraqi male and female citizen has the right to found a political party, and to be affiliated or to withdraw from it in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article 3: The principles, objectives, and program of the political party should be clear in terms of adherence to, and defense of, Iraq's independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national unity. The political party

should also value and be proud of Iraq's heritage, glorious history, and achievements attained by national struggle; particularly by the great revolutions of 14 July 1958 and 17-30 July 1968. The political party should not adopt a position that is hostile to the Arab nation's legitimate aspiration of achieving their liberation and endeavor to achieve Arab solidarity and unity.

Article 4: Democratic spirit and practices should prevail in party life. Elections are the only way to select party leadership on all levels.

Article 5: The political party cannot be founded on the basis of apostasy, sectarianism, racism, regionalism, or anti-Arabism. The party should not include in its bylaws conditions based on racism and sectarianism.

Article 6: Each party shall have a declared program which can be achieved through peaceful and democratic means, within the legal framework. The party shall commit itself to respecting citizens' rights and liberties stipulated in the Constitution and the human rights affirmed by the international agreements and charters to which Iraq is committed. The party shall also commit itself to respecting the rights and freedom of the other parties and trade and popular organizations.

Chapter 2: The Procedures for Founding a Political Party.

Article 7:

First: The founding request is presented to the minister of interior signed by the founding members.

Second: The founding members should total no less than 150 people. Each member should be no less than 25 years old. He should not be convicted for premeditated murder or honor-violating offenses.

Third: The founding request should be accompanied by a list including the name, title, profession, and place of residence of each founding member, as well as a brief history of their past. Each member's proof of Iraqi citizenship should also be handed in along with the founding request.

Fourth: The founding request would be accompanied by the program and internal structure of the political party.

Article 8: The internal structure of the political party includes the following:

First: The name of the party, provided it is not identical to the name of another licensed party.

Second: The organizational structure of the party.

Third: The conditions for belonging to the party and losing membership in said organization.

Fourth: The procedures for electing the party leadership.

Fifth: The financial resources, subscriptions, and ways of dealing with them.

Sixth: Ways of amending the party's internal system and program.

Article 9:

First: The minister of interior refers this request to the Council of Ministers within 60 days of the registration date when the founding request meets the legal conditions stipulated in Article 7 of this law.

Second: The Council of Ministers makes a decision on the request for founding the political party within 60 days by either approving or rejecting it, starting from the date of registration with the Council of Ministers. The council's decision should be justified in both cases of approval or rejection.

Third: In a case where the Council of Ministers does not look into the request, despite the passage of the period of time mentioned in the second clause of this article, the request will automatically be considered accepted in accordance with the law.

Fourth: The minister of interior will inform the founding members of the Council of Ministers' decision.

Article 10:

First: After being licensed according to the provisions of the second and third clauses of Article 9, the political party shall acquire a legal status as of the date of its registration in a special register for political parties at the Interior Ministry. It shall be represented in its legal relations by whoever the party's bylaw designates for this purpose.

Second: The political party shall publish its bylaw and program in at least one local newspaper.

Third: The political party shall exercise its activity after completing the procedures stipulated in the first and second clauses of this article.

Fourth: Baghdad shall be the party's headquarters and the party can establish branches in the administrative units, provided that it notifies the Interior Ministry and the head of the concerned administrative unit.

Chapter 3: The Formation of the Political Party.

Article 11:

First: The person wishing to join a political party should:

1. Be Iraqi in nationality.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Not have been convicted of premeditated murder or honor-violating offenses.
4. Have accepted the bylaw.

Second: The violator of the provisions of the first clause of this article shall be punished by dismissal from the party.

Article 12:

First: A person cannot join more than one party at one time.

Second: The violator of the provisions of the first clause of this article shall be punished by being fined not less than 500 dinars and not more that 1,000 dinars, and by being dismissed from both parties.

Article 13:

First: A political party shall be allowed to merge with another party upon the approval of the general congress of both parties.

Second: The merger request shall be submitted to the interior minister, signed by the two parties' officials as named in the two parties' bylaws.

Third: The procedures stipulated in Article 9 of this law shall be applied to the merger of the two parties.

Article 14:

The party shall notify the interior minister of any change in its bylaw, program, or leadership within 10 days of the change.

Chapter 4: The Rights and Duties of the Political Party.

Article 15: The political party, after it has been founded in accordance with the provisions of this law, has the right to issue a political newspaper or a political magazine, or both, provided that it informs the minister of culture and information of this.

Article 16: The political party has the right to own real estate for its headquarters, branches, a place for its members' meetings, or a headquarters for its press.

Article 17:

First: The party's foreign activities and its relations with the political parties and organizations outside the country shall take place through the Arab and International Relations Committee in the National Assembly.

Second: The political party shall be prohibited from establishing direct or indirect relations with any government sector in another state. Violators shall be punished by life imprisonment.

Article 18:

First: The political party shall not be allowed to send funds or any amounts of money to any societies, organizations, persons, or sectors outside the country, except with the approval of the Council of Ministers. Violators shall be sentenced to not less than one year in prison and no more than three years.

Second: The political party shall not be allowed to accept from any party, society, organization, person, or sector outside the country money in cash and kind, except with the approval of the Council of Ministers. Violators shall be sentenced to life imprisonment, and the money shall be confiscated in all cases.

Article 19:

First: Any political education and activity or party organization shall be prohibited within the Armed Forces, the internal security force, and the other security organs, or with their personnel by any political party, with the exception of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, due to its historic role in unleashing and leading the great 17-30 July Revolution, its triumphant march, and great achievements.

Second: Anyone who violates the provisions of the "First" clause of this article shall be punished in accordance with the valid RCC laws and decisions.

Article 20: The political party is banned from taking military or semi-military form in terms of its structure or work. It is also banned from establishing such organizations.

Article 21:

First: The political party maintains the following records:

1. A record for the party members in which the names, addresses, professions, and dates of the members' affiliations are registered.
2. A record for the decisions in which the party decisions are kept.
3. A record for the accounts in which the party's revenues and expenses are kept.
4. A record for the funds in which the party's liquid and fixed assets are maintained.
5. Any other records required by the party's work.

Second: All the records mentioned in the First Clause should be certified by a notary public.

Article 22: During January of each year, the political party presents to the interior minister a statement including the names of the new members, their number, addresses, profession, and dates of their affiliation; the names of those who lost their membership; and any other information defined by the regulations.

Chapter 5: The Political Party's Finances.

Article 23: The political party's finances shall consist of the following:

First: Subscriptions and donations.
Second: Investment revenues.
Third: Revenues from its press and publications.
Fourth: Annual government aid.

Article 24: The president of the Republic decides the amount of the government's annual aid stipulated in Article 23 of this law based on the number of the party members, the number of its representatives in the National Assembly, and its role in the national struggle.

Article 25:

First: The political party deposits its cash assets in an Iraqi bank.

Second: The party's money can only be spent in accordance with the method defined in its bylaw.

Article 26: The political party's accounts will be subject to the auditing of the Financial Control Office, which will present an annual report to the Cabinet of Ministers on the party's financial situation.

Chapter 6: General and Conclusive Rules.

Article 27: A political party has the right to dissolve itself in accordance with the regulations of its internal structure.

Article 28: The Council of Ministers can decide to dissolve a political party under the following conditions:

First: If the number of party members registered in the party's registration record does not amount to 2000 members within two years of its foundation.

Second: If there is proof that it is carrying out any activity which threatens the security of the state, unity of its territory, sovereignty, independence, and national unity.

Third: If there is proof that the party is setting up military or paramilitary groups.

Fourth: If there is proof that it is performing acts that could violate the rights and liberties of other parties and popular or professional organizations.

Fifth: If there is proof of its interference in the internal affairs of any Arab or foreign country which could harm the supreme interests of Iraq.

Sixth: If there is proof that the party is storing firearms, military arms, and explosive materials in its headquarters, one of the centers of its branches, or any other place.

Seventh: If it resorts to the use of violence in its political practices.

Eighth: If, after being warned, the party repeats its violations of the stipulations in the second clause of Article 17, or second clause of Article 18 of this law.

Article 29: When dissolved, the funds of the political party will be transferred to a side in Iraq which will be specified by the decision to dissolve the party.

Article 30:

First: Every decision issued by the Council of Ministers dealing with implementing the regulations of this law should be justifiable and protestable by the concerned side at the Court of Cassation's Plenum within 30 days of the date of being informed of the decision.

Second: The decisions of the Court of Cassation's Plenum will be final and not protestable.

Article 31: The existing political parties will adapt their legal situation to befit the regulations of this law within 120 days from the time it goes into effect.

Article 32: After the Council of Ministers' approval, the minister of interior should issue instructions to facilitate implementation of this resolution.

Article 33: Articles 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of the law of societies number 1/1960 will be canceled.

Article 34: This law will go into effect as of the date it is published in the Official Gazette.

Reasons:

This law has been issued in confirmation of the policy of the 17-30 July revolution of entrenching the rules of democratic practice; in accordance with the stages of political, economic, and social developments in the country; and in response to the requirements of the new historic stage in the life of great Iraq. The objective is to allow all citizens to serve the country on a larger scale and to reinforce its sovereignty, independence, and unity by way of contributing to the political life in a responsible peaceful, democratic way through dialogue. Opinions, expertise, and experiences interact in the dialogue, especially since the political parties constitute one of the basic pillars of the democratic system through which the citizen exercises his rights, duties, and freedom, and for the sake of establishing political parties on democratic and national bases.

U.S. University Team Visits al-Basrah 31 Aug

JN3108145491 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, Aug. 31, INA—American Harvard University committee team for assessment of volume of losses and damages caused by the war and the economic blockade has acquainted itself with effects of the destruction inflicted on the industrial, health, educational and cultural institutions in the province of al-Basrah, southern Iraq.

Al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Hammud reviewed during his meeting with the team today sequels of the American-led aggression and the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, which claimed the lives of numerous children, women and elderly.

The governor has also met an information team from the Swiss TV Network currently visiting the province for preparing a program on effects of the American aggression that had befallen the civilian establishments in the province.

Team Member Injured in Explosion

JN3108150991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Maysan, 31 Aug (INA)—A Harvard Committee member, Mr. Billy [name as received], was injured when an unexploded bomb, dropped by U.S. and coalition aircraft, exploded.

The INA correspondent in Maysan Governorate has learned that Mr. Billy had asked Maysan Governor 'Abdallah 'Ajzan to see some of the bombs dropped by the U.S. and coalition aircraft to murder the Iraqi people. Upon seeing the bombs, he hurled a stone at one of them. The bomb detonated, injuring him in the face. He was taken to Saddam General Hospital in al-'Amarah for treatment.

Military Service for 'Graduates' Reduced

JN3108075891 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 29 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] BABIL has learned that compulsory service in the Armed Forces for graduates has been limited to 18 months, instead of 24 months.

The first six months of service will be devoted to basic training and to a training course on the specific corps in

which conscripts will serve. The remaining 12 months will be devoted to work in the corps.

Envoy Addresses Geneva Human Rights Gathering

JN3008114491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Iraq's delegation to the meetings of the Human Rights Subcommittee on Preventing Discrimination and Protecting Minorities has cast doubt on the possibility of launching a new economic world order while a single superpower is dominating the world's economic and political capabilities. An INA correspondent in Geneva cited the head of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings, currently underway in Geneva, as saying that without a fair economic world order, human rights cannot not be safeguarded as desired by the world community through various conventions and treaties.

He said the suffering the Iraqi people have been experiencing since 2 August 1990—as a result of the Security Council resolutions—cannot be justified now that the reasons for adopting the resolutions have ended. He added that the continuation of the economic blockade, with its growing effects on all Iraqis, is not in harmony with claims that the sanctions are not directed against the Iraqi people.

In his address to the meeting, the head of the Iraqi delegation provided an accurate account of the situation following the bitter events in Iraq, leaving it for the subcommittee's experts to assess the true suffering of the Iraqi people and the danger this poses to the economic and social rights of the Iraqis, both now and in the future. These, he said, are merely examples of the human suffering in Iraq; they do not necessarily draw the actual picture of the suffering.

The head of the Iraqi delegation criticized the basis of Security Council Resolution No. 706, according to which the United States, Great Britain, and France would allow Iraq to sell $1.6 billion worth of oil over a period of six months. He explained: In fact, Iraq imports $6 billion worth of foodstuffs every year. So, the amount determined by the resolution does not meet Iraq's actual need.

Minister Condemns Security Council Resolution

JN3008130591 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30, INA—Iraqi Trade Minister blasted the Security Council Resolution No. 706 and said that its targets were not relieving victims of the oppressive embargo but imposing further restrictions and enslavement on Iraq and its people.

In a statement to INA, the minister said in reference to the feverish calls for commitment to it, the resolution was after squandering Iraq's sovereignity and freedom and that it only deserves condemnation for it reflected a desire for revenge and hate .

The minister added that the resolution was supposed to have been based on the report of the U.N. envoy Sadruddin Aga Khan on the facts of the situation in Iraq under the economic embargo and the results of the military aggression on it. The trade minister said that the resolution contradicted Aga Khan's report by providing for deducting more than one third of the total amount which would mean depriving the people of Iraq from more than one third of their needs estimated by the U.N. envoy for the period of six months.

The minister also referred to wasting part of the real amount as salaries and expenses for adminstrative organs of the Security Council which had proposed their formation to supervise the distribution of food materials to be bought by their funds.

The Iraqi trade minister described the formation of the food distribution and supervision organs as one of the darkest points in the resolution and said they were after cancelling the role of Iraqi establishments in running the internal affairs of the country.

The minister said the resolution unveiled in a clear-cut manner the aggressive nature of the American policy and other Western quarters in forcing their will over the destinies of peoples.

Trade Minister Leaves for Arab Economic Meeting

JN0109144191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih left for Cairo today at the head of a delegation to participate in the 49th session of the Arab Social and Economic Council due to begin there the day after tomorrow, Tuesday. [passage omitted]

INA has learned that the head of the Iraqi delegation to the session will deliver a speech urging the Arab brothers to assume their responsibilities in getting the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq lifted, Iraqi assets in several Arab and foreign banks unfrozen, and food and medicine shipments held in a number of states released.

Hammadi Receives Senegalese President's Message

JN0309105791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf concerning friendly relations between the two countries and ways to further develop them. Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi received the message from special Senegalese envoy Sidi Amin Niaz [name as received], during a meeting today.

The Senegalese envoy arrived in Baghdad on Sunday.

Shamir Denies Talks With Hamas About Soldier

TA0209174691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister has said he does not know whether soldier Ilan Sa'adon is indeed being held by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He was reacting to a report from Beirut according to which the terrorist organization claimed to have Sa'adon. The prime minister made these remarks after a meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, at which several economic and political issues were finalized. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The Romanian president and Israel's prime minister had an excellent meeting, said Israeli officials who attended the hour-long discussion. Ion Iliescu promised that Romania would drastically downgrade its ties with the PLO. Shamir expressed appreciation for the Romanian Government's actions against manifestations of anti-Semitism. The two men agreed to establish a joint Romanian-Israeli bank for international trade.

When the prime minister was being escorted to his limousine by the visiting president, we asked him about other news-related issues:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Is Israel about to recognize Latvia, now that the United States has announced its intention to do so?

[Shamir] Right now I am immersed in relations with Romania [laughs]; right now, I know nothing about Latvia. We will discuss the issue, however, and make a decision in the coming days.

[Golan] Can you describe the significance of the Romanian president's visit?

[Shamir] It is an important visit that will undoubtedly strengthen cooperation between us and Romania. There are many spheres in which such cooperation has already been launched, and we intend to pursue this course. I hope it will prove beneficial to both countries.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, Hamas has announced that they are holding Ilan Sa'adon. Is he the soldier who disappeared some time ago [about two years]? Do you have some confirmation or corroboration of this information? Are negotiations with Hamas under way, or will they be?

[Shamir] There are no negotiations with Hamas, and I have no hard evidence of such a development. [end recording]

Sources Say Soldier Murdered

TA0209185891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Israeli security sources possess reliable information saying that the late Private Ilan Sa'adon was murdered by his kidnappers and that his body was buried inside Israel, although investigation and extensive searches have failed to discover the body. On the basis of the information and findings amassed by the authorities, the missing soldier was declared a fallen soldier whose place of burial is unknown.

Ilan Sa'adon's murderers fled Israel and have never been captured. Several members of the group that sent them were apprehended and charged for their part in the murder. Their trial is still in progress.

This case differs from the other POW's and MIA's in that the others are being kept by hostile organizations in enemy countries.

Shamir Expects 'New Information' on Hostages

TA0209115391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that new information regarding the fate of the Israeli POW's and MIA's may be received over the weekend. He made this statement during a meeting with correspondents at an international congress on drugs that opened today in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari reports.

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] So far there has been no news on the Israeli prisoners; however, we are waiting for information which may come in over the weekend. This was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's response to the question posed by correspondents. Mr. Shamir would not be more specific. Answering another question, the prime minister commented on the cabinet's debate on the 1992 budget.

[Shamir] We will see tomorrow. The debate is to be concluded and summed up tomorrow. We have to decide by that time.

[Ya'ari] The prime minister had earlier congratulated the participants at the fifth international congress on drugs, which is being held in Jerusalem. The world must prevent Syria and Lebanon from producing and distributing drugs in our region.

[Shamir, in English] In the Syrian-dominated al-Biqa' Valley, drugs are grown, manufactured, and distributed.

[Ya'ari translates and continues] To Israel, Egypt, and other countries. It is no secret that Syrian Government elements are involved in this illegal activity, the prime minister said. [end recording]

Amal Claim of Holding Victims of Battle Rejected

TA0209113291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The Shiite Amal group in Lebanon claims that it is holding two bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in a battle in 1982 at Khaldah, south of Beirut, and not at al-Sultan Ya'qub. An Amal spokesman in Beirut said he did not understand why Israel was ignoring the bodies of two of its men. But, Israeli sources said, Israel did not have any

missing servicemen from the fighting at Khaldah, and there will be no negotiations with Amal before a reliable international organization identifies the bodies.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 2 September adds that in a meeting with a visiting U.S. congressman today, Foreign Minister David Levi said that "Israel is not only concerned about its POW's and MIA's, but about all Western hostages. Israel hopes that our prisoners will be treated likewise by others. Minister Levi noted that Israel will not give up and will persist in its efforts until all the prisoners and hostages have been released."]

Stance on POW's Repeated After Shiite Offer

TA0209094991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Israel abides by its demand to get details, a sign of life, or any other information about its POW's and MIA's in Lebanon before any action or gesture on its part.

This was how Israeli security sources reacted yesterday to the announcement by the Lebanese Shiite group "al-Sadr's Followers" that it is prepared to provide the UN secretary general information about Israeli navigator Ron Arad in exchange for information about the fate of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

Al-Sadr, spiritual leader of the Shiites in Lebanon, disappeared in 1978 during a visit to Libya.

Israeli security sources noted that this latest announcement was part of the psychological warfare being waged by Hizballah.

[A report by Eytan Rabin on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 September notes that "concurrently with the UN secretary general's attempts to hold contacts with the Iranian authorities and Lebanese organizations in a bid to get information about the Israeli POW's and MIA's, Israel has been holding its own quiet diplomatic contacts with the same purpose."

The report goes on to say that "Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, last night denied that progress had been made on the question of the POW's and the MIA's."]

Iran Held Responsible for Airman Arad

TA0109053191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] In response to the Iranian statement, defense sources in Israel say this country still holds Tehran responsible for the safety and well-being of navigator Ron Arad. They say Israel has evidence that Arad was handed over to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards some years back for hundreds of thousands of dollars and that the navigator is being held in the Iranian capital. The defense sources told Qol Yisra'el they regret very much that Iran refuses to admit that Arad is in their custody. Israel is again calling on Tehran to act according to the basic fundamentals of accepted international behavior and to relay the information concerning the captured navigator to the United Nations secretary general.

Mid-September Date Seen Likely for Baker Visit

TA0209201091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Jerusalem believes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is most likely to arrive in the region in mid-September, notwithstanding President Bush's observation that he has not decided on a date for Baker's visit. Baker will try to finalize with the region's parties details pertinent to their invitation to a regional peace conference.

In reply tonight to our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik's question, Prime Minister Shamir confirmed that Baker will arrive soon, although he added he had no further details. Our correspondent adds that Baker is supposed to visit Moscow before arriving here. It is believed that the USSR does not intend to postpone the peace conference scheduled for October.

Further information reveals that one of the Palestinians' demands is that Baker agree to the inclusion in their delegation of representatives from outside the territories, as well as East Jerusalemites carrying a Jordanian passport. Israel will probably object to such a compromise. Israel wishes to approve the Palestinian representatives' name list in advance, in order to prevent an infringement on its conditions.

Shamir—Syria, Lebanon Aiding Drug Smuggling

TA0209081791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has accused the Governments of Syria and Lebanon of not fighting, and even encouraging, drug smuggling into Israel. Israel tries very hard to fight the drug scourge, but this is a problem that cannot be easily overcome when there is no regional cooperation, Shamir said. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad points out that the prime minister was addressing the opening of the fifth international congress on drugs organized by Israel's Anti-Drug Authority.

Settlement To Grow Nearly Fourfold Soon

TA0209101891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Sep 91 p 12

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] The settlement Shavey Shomron will soon be nearly quadrupled in size, according to a plan reportedly finalized last week by the Defense and Housing Ministries.

After years of negotiations, the Defense Ministry agreed to evacuate an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base adjoining the

community, in exchange for compensation from the Housing Ministry to pay for the completion of a new base being built in the Negev, settlement leaders said.

The base will be evacuated within three months, the old buildings torn down, and construction will start on some 300 new homes, according to the 'Arim Urban Development Company, which is carrying out the project for the Housing Ministry.

Between 70 and 80 families presently live at Shavey Shomron, located between Nabulus and Tulkarm.

The plan to expand the settlement into the several hundred dunam tract now occupied by the IDF base was first discussed in the early 1980s, according to Samaria Council head Beni Katzover.

But while the IDF agrees in principle to the move, it could never come to an agreement with the Housing Ministry on compensation, Katzover added.

Shamir Returns From Bulgaria, Makes Statement

TA3008135391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned this afternoon from a three-day state visit to Bulgaria. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that upon landing at Ben-Gurion Airport Mr. Shamir said his talks in Sofia had been interesting and active. He added that the peace process in the Middle East had been discussed and that he believes Bulgaria will back Israel's position. The prime minister also noted that Bulgaria had stopped aid to the PLO.

An agreement on cooperation in various economic areas—trade, science and technology, development, and tourism—was signed during the visit. It was decided that lines of credit and exchanges of know-how in the fields of agriculture and health would be the steps toward carrying out joint projects with Bulgaria with international funding.

Referring to the argument over the defense budget, the prime minister said he would make up his mind only after the cabinet discusses the matter next week.

As for the question of the POW's, Mr. Shamir said he would very much like to believe the UN secretary general's optimistic evaluations. Although these evaluations may be true, patience is still called for, the prime minister noted.

Visit by Romanian President Reported

Iliescu Arrives, Met by Levi

TA0209092291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Romania's President Ion Iliescu arrived in Israel this morning. His plane landed at Ben-Gurion Airport, and a state reception ceremony will be held at Jerusalem's Rose Garden in about one hour.

Foreign Minister David Levi, who came to the airport to receive him, told our correspondent Dan Eshel that in his talks with Iliescu he will raise the issue of anti-Semitism in Romania and will demand that a law against it be passed there.

Confers With Shamir

TA0309100791 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 3 Sep 91

["Communicated by the Prime Minister's media adviser"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Romanian President Ion Iliescu held long talks this evening (Monday), 2.9.91, on the matter of relations between the two countries. President Iliescu said that his visit to Israel was not routine and that it had deep political significance, in that Romania is interested in close relations with Israel in all practical areas.

Prime Minister Shamir said that we harbor great admiration for Romania which was the only state in the Communist bloc not to break ties with Israel and, even today, it assists in bringing Soviet Jews to Israel. Israel, Shamir said, is prepared to help its friend and to share the rich experience it has acquired in agriculture, industry, banking, trade and tourism.

The Romanian President proposed the establishment of a joint bank by the two countries with the intention of helping the Romanian banking system and Shamir said that he would examine this idea. He noted that, given that Romania is now a democratic country, it is possible to strengthen ties therewith and to enter into areas not dealt with in the past. At the same time, Shamir mentioned the problem of widespread anti-Semitism in a number of sectors of Romanian society and the fact that Romania still maintains ties with the PLO, despite the change of its regime.

President Iliescu said that his government is working intensely to counter all expressions of anti-Semitism, the inheritance of the previous regime, and—with regard to the PLO—Romania is reducing its ties with the organization to a minimum.

The two men concluded the conversation with an expression of hope that the continuation of relations between Romania and Israel will be conducted in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.

Sees Sharp Improvement in Ties

TA0309064191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Romanian president forecasts a sharp improvement in relations between his country and

Israel. He said that last night at a dinner held in his honor by President Hayim Herzog. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports:

In his words of welcome to the Romanian president, President Herzog expressed concern about a reawakening of anti-Semitism in Romania. [passage omitted]

The Romanian president showed in his remarks a special awareness of Jewish sensitivities and said several words in Hebrew. His address was particularly optimistic about the chances of achieving a peace settlement in the Middle East and continued democratic reforms in Romania. He said the following about his visit and that of his entourage.

[Begin Iliescu recording in English] The talks, which will take place between the members of our delegations and between the Romanian and Israeli experts on the documents which will be concluded, will represent the starting point for actions that will bring our bilateral cooperation even closer. [end recording]

Iliescu, Levi Agree on Coordination

TA0209204291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu told Foreign Minister David Levi that the Romanian Government will set up a special commission to probe the issue of Jewish property the state had confiscated. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the remarks were made in response to Minister Levi's request to find a solution to the problem of property left behind by emigrating Romanian Jews.

The Romanian president and Foreign Minister Levi agreed to establish a framework for political consultation and to coordinate the activities of the two foreign ministries.

Foreign Minister Levi accepted the Romanian president's invitation to visit Bucharest.

Addresses Jerusalem Reception

TA0209124991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1015 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Address by Romanian President Ion Iliescu at reception ceremony at the Rose Garden in Jerusalem—live, in English; italicized passages in Hebrew]

[Text] Your Excellency, President Herzog, we are happy and honored to be with you in *Eretz Yisra'el* for a short visit. The roots of many spiritual trends and the foundations for some patterns of civilization have inspired the whole history of mankind are stored up here. Israel, this altneuland [preceding word in German]—a new and old land as Theodor Herzl used to call it—means a country with ancient reality. Yet, I remember with great delight that the founding father of the settlements in Rosh Pina, more than a century ago, saying that they are *hazranim*, which means peasants in Romanian. They brought into use a new Hebrew order. This was much more than denominating a social category. [passage indistinct] They brought a historical devotion for the land of their forefathers—the same frame of mind with you, based on a common existential pattern.

In this story we find the explanation why the Romanians understand so well what it means to work and fight for the land that God himself granted to you at the very dawn of history. The Romanian people experienced so many difficult times as to learn respecting all those that suffered even more, and now want to enjoy peace on their own land.

Mr. President, I should like to underline the political significance we pay to this first visit of a head of the Romanian state to Israel. Thanking you for the warm reception and the friendly words of greetings, we rejoice in your achievements, and we feel like participating in your endeavors through our *'olim* [immigrants], those helping to build up the dynamic and modern state in *Eretz Yisra'el*. Wishing you, Mr. President, on behalf of the Romanian people, to find the best answers to the problems still facing your country. I only want to conclude with *Shalom, Shalom uvrahot* [and greetings] to Israel and all. Thank you.

Visits Yad Vashem, Bethlehem

TA0309122991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu is due shortly to begin a lunch meeting with Prime Minister Shamir here in Jerusalem. The talks follow two visits by Iliescu this morning: first to the Yad Vashem memorial for the victims of Nazism. Steve Linde reports.

[Begin recording] [Linde] The Romanian president was noticeably moved and interested during his 90-minute tour of Yad Vashem, continually asking questions of the memorial's chairman, Dr. Yitzhaq Arad. President Iliescu clearly did his homework, demonstrating a detailed knowledge of the Holocaust and the circumstances in which about 300,000 Romanian Jews were murdered. Accompanied by a large entourage, Iliescu laid two wreaths in the Hall of Remembrance: one in memory of the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and another for the 150,000 who died at the (Translistrea) camp in Romania. After the ceremony, Dr. Yosef Burg, chairman of Yad Vashem's international council, presented President Iliescu with a six-branch candelabrum. Speaking in Romanian, Iliescu said he was convinced humanity would not allow another Holocaust. He was asked to translate his remarks into English:

[Iliescu] I have expressed some sentiments in connection with this visit, in these places which evoke not only the martyrdom of the Jewish people but the martrydom of humanity at all. We all hope that the human society will not permit to be repeated such tragedies from our history before.

[Linde] After signing the guest book, President Iliescu concluded his visit at the children's memorial. [end recording]

Later, President Iliescu arrived in Bethlehem to tour the Church of the Nativity. The visit by a head of state to the territories is a departure from the usual itinerary. The president told reporter Miriam Herschlag his visit to Israel has been highly productive.

[Begin recording] [Herschlag] President Iliescu says so far the visit has been highly productive.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us about your economic requests?

[Iliescu] Yes, after one day and a half we can underline this, that we find a very good climate of friendship and willing bilateral cooperation. We are here a great delegation, with the representatives of different ministries of the government. They have their own contacts now with the representative of the Government of Israel, with businessmen and bankers, and other interesting people.

[Herschlag] The 10-car entourage arrived here about an hour and a half ago. The first and only stop was the Church of the Nativity, where President Iliescu received a lengthy explanation in Romanian of the Church's significance. He was also presented with candles by the Greek Orthodox Deacon (Patarito). Inside the church, I asked President Iliescu the significance of a visit to Bethlehem by the head of a country where the Church had been heavily proscribed until recently.

[Iliescu] Yes, now we have very good relations with all churches, and with the main church, which is the orthodox one. We have here in Jerusalem a representation of the Romanian Orthodox Church, [passage indistinct] visitors of this church. But this place linked to Christ is a place of general interest.

[Herschlag] One more question: Apart from being in Bethlehem, you are also in the administered territories. Can you relate to that?

[Iliescu] I did not....

[Herschlag, interrupting] You have also arrived over the Green Line. Can you relate to that? You are now in the area which is under heavy dispute at this time in Israel.

[Iliescu] Yes, we shall not get into political...[laughs] [end recording]

Lithuania's Landsbergis Asks for Diplomatic Ties

TA0109171591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis has sent a letter to Israeli President Hayim Herzog. Landsbergis asked the Israeli Government to recognize the independence of Lithuania and establish diplomatic relations with Vilnius.

Levi—Recognition in 'Good Time'

TA0209073391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] Addressing a group of Likud Party academics last night, Foreign Minister David Levi delivered a long and detailed account of Israel's status in the international arena. He listed achievements that the state and he personally have scored on that area and the political process. According to the foreign minister, in general our political situation is not bad at all.

David Levi briefly referred to the question of whether Israel will recognize the seceding Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

[Begin Levi recording] We will recognize them, but all in good time. No one will dictate to us what to do through panic or dogma. [end recording]

As for when it will happen, Levi said: There is no need to rush.

[Begin Levi recording] I do not understand why should anyone have the impression that we must rush, take risks, and not examine or consider it, but claim that the ideal thing is to recognize those states before the United Sates does. And why? Because. [end recording]

David Levi said that he will set up a committee of members of academia and experts to examine the developments in this respect.

Levi also criticized remarks by Minister Ari'el Sharon, who said that Israel should negotiate with Arab countries only after they have set up democratic regimes. Levi said: Making peace more remote will not bring about the desired change.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments

TA0109201691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Israel takes a sympathetic view of the efforts of the three Baltic republics—Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia—to achieve independence. A senior official in Jerusalem said today the Baltic states are in a special catagory, but no indication was given as to when Israel would recognize the three republics. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia were once independent states, the senior official pointed out, and their sovereignty was taken from them by force as a result of a pact between Hitler and Stalin. Therefore, they are in a special category. Without spelling it out, the official implied that they are in a different category from the other dissident Soviet republics. No indication was given as to when Israel will recognize the Baltic states, but when the United States and the Western European countries do so, Israel is expected to follow.

The official was speaking to reporters on the eve of the visit of Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry for East European affairs, Dr. Yosef Govrin, stressed the importance of the visit:

[Govrin] As you know, it is for the first time that a Romanian president is visiting Israel, and particularly a president of a free Romania. We have always maintained diplomatic relations with Romania, and Romania for a very long time was the only one country with whom we had maintained diplomatic relations.

[Katzenell] You mean in Eastern Europe?

[Govrin] In East Europe, of course.

[Katzenell] The senior official disclosed that Israel has asked the Romanian Government to clamp down on two nationalist newspapers which have been calling for the rehabilitation of the wartime dictator Ion Antonescu, who was responsible for the deaths of 300,000 Jews. One of the newspapers has already been closed. [end recording]

Soviet Culture Delegation Arrives for Art Show

TA0109134591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Visiting Soviets' names and titles as heard]

[Text] A small delegation of high-ranking Soviet culture officials arrived over the weekend in Israel to attend the opening on Tuesday of a Soviet art exhibition at the Israel Museum. The most senior member of the delegation is Soviet Deputy Culture Minister Mikhail Ilichevskiy. He is accompanied by Uzhakov, the official in charge of culture in Moscow and an associate of Boris Yeltsin; and Tair Salakhov, chairman of the Soviet Artists Association.

Businessmen, Ukrainians Sign Trade Agreement

TA0209105791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Sep 91 p 12

[Report by Jacob Wirtschafter]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—Ukrainian officials left here yesterday with little more than a trade agreement with the Israel Chamber of Commerce.

The high-level delegation, headed by parliamentary speaker Vladimir Grinev, had hoped for an economic cooperation agreement to be signed by the minister of industry and trade. [passage omitted]

Before leaving, Grinev signed an economic cooperation with Dan Gillerman, president of the Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Ireland Protests at UNIFIL-SLA Clashes

TA0209122091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Sep 91 p A3

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] The Irish Defense Ministry has lodged a fierce protest with Israel in the wake of the continued shelling of UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] positions and bases bordering on the security zone in south Lebanon by SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops.

The protest, conveyed by UNIFIL headquarters in al-Naqurah, notes that on dozens of occasions last week SLA soldiers opened fire on UN positions outside the security zone, particularly those manned by UNIFIL's Irish contingent.

A shell fired by SLA troops yesterday hit the dining room of the Irish command in the village of Bra'shit. There have been no casualties in any of the incidents. For a week now, SLA soldiers have allegedly been opening fire at UNIFIL soldiers with cannon and machine guns.

Meanwhile, SLA soldiers clamped a curfew on Bra'shit, arguing that terror squads set out from this village for attacks in the security zone. Officers at SLA headquarters contend that they have no intention of hitting UN soldiers but note that terrorists frequently hide near UNIFIL positions.

AL-QUDS Office Closed; Police Launch Probe

TA0109151091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] One of the offices of the East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS was closed this afternoon by order of Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command. The newspaper was not closed. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that various documents and cash were confiscated today during a search. The Jerusalem Police have launched an investigation.

No Casualties as Shots Fired From Jordan

TA0109211391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] This evening, several shots were fired from Jordan at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol moving near Kibbutz Sha'ar Hagolan in the Jordan Valley. This was reported by official military sources. The soldiers returned fire. Our forces sustained no casualties and no damage was caused. An IDF force searched the area using flares and found no signs of any attempt to infiltrate the border.

A state of alert was sounded in Kibbutz Masada and Kibbutz Sha'ar Hagolan for a short time, but afterward life returned to normal. This was reported by our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Hayim Hecht.

Interior Minister Confirms Release of 81 Suspects

JN0109174991 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Remarks by Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul to correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah in Amman on 1 September—recorded]

[Text] Eighty-one people who were detained for belonging to the illegal organization [Muhammad's Army] and for possessing automatic weapons in violation of the provisions of the law regulating the possession of weapons were released this morning. The decision was made as a result of the wise directives under which we are working and which we receive from our wise leadership. The decision is also an expression of leniency and forgiveness.

I hope that the decision will be an occasion for those who were released to resume their normal life, to be aware of the interest of their homeland and families, and to refrain from anything that may harm the homeland's internal and external security. Our wise leadership, represented by his majesty the king, behaved in a paternal and responsible spirit. The decision to release this group of our sons without trial meets the objectives of these directives. Regarding the 18 other detainees, we can say that the prosecution has found sufficient evidence to have them tried by the State Security Court very soon.

Iraq Trade Minister Arrives in Amman 1 Sep

JN0209122091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih arrived in Amman yesterday on a several-day visit, during which he will meet with a number of Jordanian Government officials.

Committee Formed To Resist al-'Aqabah 'Siege'

JN3108113691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Aug 91 p 8

[By Salam al-Shawwa]

[Excerpts] Jordanian importers have begun to raise their voices and complain about the severe losses they are sustaining as a result of the gradual tightening of the unjust and unjustified siege imposed on the port of al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

At the request of a Jordanian merchant, Muhammad al-Nahhas, a meeting was held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce bringing together a large number of economic figures, merchants, and importers who have been harmed by the siege.

The conferees established a committee called "the committee on those harmed by the U.S. siege on al-'Aqabah Port." The committee includes six members and is chaired by Muhammad al-Nahhas. The members are 'Awdah 'Akluk and 'Awdah Khuri from the private sector, Sa'id Murad from the Jordanian Businessmen's Society, a member from the Chamber of Commerce Union, and a member from the Amman Chamber of Industry. The two latter members will be appointed at a later date.

The conferees recommended measures to protest the economic siege. The measures include: First, launching two parallel media campaigns, the first to be directed at the United Nations and U.S. public opinion to explain the injustice being carried out against the Jordanian people as a result of the siege on al-'Aqabah, even though Jordan completely abides by all the Security Council's resolutions. Second, directing a campaign at the Foreign Ministry to make it depict a clear picture of the direct and indirect losses sustained, not only by the importers, but also by all sectors of the national economy. This requires the Jordanian officials to intensify contacts at the highest levels.

The conferees also demanded that some amendments be made to the Security Council resolution calling for the searching of all ships bound for al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

Muhammad al-Nahhas said: We are serious in our work because our demands are fair and fall within the bounds of international legitimacy. If these attempts fail, we will resort to a kind of passive resistance, by protesting at the embassies concerned and the UN headquarters in Amman so as to convey our message; that the siege is unjust and that Jordan is totally committed to all the Security Council's resolutions.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he added: Last year, 63 ships were intercepted, searched, and delayed. This, he added, resulted in a direct loss of $15 million in fines, contract cancellations, and costs to industry. The indirect losses may reach $250 million since damage is being inflicted on all economic sectors of the country. [passage omitted]

Al-Nahhas also wondered why the U.S. forces are tightening the siege on al-'Aqabah, while they are doing nothing at the Turkish ports. He said the reason is that the United States wants the Jordanian people to pay a high price for their support of fraternal Iraq during the crisis.

Concluding, he said: All the concerned parties should unify their efforts to support those who were harmed by the unjust siege and to ease its repercussions on people and ordinary citizens. He also pointed out that the committee he chairs will submit a report to the general commission of those who were harmed, concerning all the steps to be taken by the group to achieve its goals.

Fadlallah on Israeli Withdrawal, Hostages

NC0209122991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that talk about an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is unrealistic and inaccurate. This is because Resolution 425 is linked to the mechanism of Resolution 426, which deals with arrangements among the parties concerned with the resolution without specifying whether these arrangements are security related, political, or economic, he added.

Asked about the possiblity of a dialogue among the Lebanese factions, Fadlallah told the newspaper AL-ANWAR: When the Lebanese stop talking about fear and counter-fear, injustice and counter-injustice, and their Muslim and Christian affiliations, then a serious dialogue is possible.

[In a Beirut-datelined report on Fadlallah's comments, Paris AFP in English at 0856 GMT on 2 September adds: "The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite Muslim fundamentalists said Monday he was optimistic over the release of all hostages in the Middle East because of United Nations involvement in the affair.

"'Since the main parties concerned have agreed on giving a role to the United Nations, that means they agree on finding an overall settlement to the hostages' affair,' Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said.

"'Things have reached such a point that all parties are seeking a solution without winners or losers,' the Muslim cleric said without elaborating."]

Hamas Holding Israelis 'in Occupied Palestine'

NC0209111691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that the movement has opened contacts with all parties and forces holding hostages and Israelis in a bid to take part in a prisoner exchange.

An official spokesman for Hamas said that the movement is holding Israeli soldier Sa'dun, whom its fighters captured in occupied Palestine in May 1989. The spokesman said that the movement will continue its efforts with all parties concerned to unify efforts and stands to ensure a successful prisoner exchange.

Radio Reports New Group's Offer Concerning Arad

NC0109170891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] A previously unknown Lebanese Shiite group calling itself the al-Sadriyin Organization [Munazzamat al-Sadriyin] has declared it is ready to provide UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with information about Israeli navigator Ron Arad, who was captured in Lebanon, in return for information about the fate of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

In a statement received by AFP, the organization said it is prepared to provide the UN secretary general with the information through the Syrian brothers, according to the statement.

Jibril: PFLP-GC Holds 3 Israeli Soldiers

NC0109051191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has declared that three Israeli soldiers reported missing during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon are still alive. He also declared that his group holds the Israelis.

Negotiations on Hostages at 'Decisive Stage'

NC3108170891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Regarding the developments in the hostage issue, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the negotiations to release all the Western hostages in Lebanon have reached a decisive stage.

In an interview with Fadlallah to be published on Monday [2 September], the German magazine DER SPIEGEL said he stressed the conditions for the freeing of the hostages, which include the release of the Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israel and the release of the Hamadi brothers in Germany.

Junblatt, Birri Criticize Government

NC3108135291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A massive popular rally organized by the Amal Movement was held today to commemorate the 13th anniversary of Imam Musa al-Sadr's disappearance. A strike was observed in some Lebanese areas on the occasion. [passage omitted]

In his speech before the rally, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Leader Walid Junblatt said: O distinguished ulema; O great comrade Nabih Birri; O honorable guests; O people of the south and Jabal 'Amil: We come to you tnow on the day of the oppressed, the day of the poor, and the day of the strugglers, the anniversary of great Imam Musa al-Sadr to renew the pledge of the honorable fighters from Bhamdun, to Suq al-Gharb, Kayfun, 'Aytat, Beirut, the Iqlim, al-Shahhar, Sidon, al-Shuwayfat, al-Nabatiyah, and Tyre. We come today to stress our desire to have a just peace and total liberation. Under the just peace we have agreed to hand over our weapons to Syria. But believe me, brothers and comrades, the campaign is great and we get worried every day when we see the trucks towing the guns and weapons and carrying ammunition. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: Under the just peace, we refuse to allow Mount Lebanon to become a single electoral constituency, refuse to Maronize it or separate it from the south or Beirut. We refuse to return to the small Lebanon from Bsharri to Jazzin. We do not want another war, because we have had enough of them. As for the liberation, the international resolutions will neither recover the south, the Golan, the West Bank nor Jerusalem before they rebuild the Temple on its rubble. Only the rifle, the rifle of the poor and the oppressed; only the weapons, which are the symbol of manhood; only a unified stand that brings us together with Syria and the sincere Arab and Islamic forces from Algeria to Iran to Afghanistan; only such a stand could deter the West, its evil, rancor, and atheism. [passage omitted]

Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri said the Lebanese regime and government are to blame for putting Lebanon in a situation beyond its control; that is, the international conference. He added: We can forgive mistakes, but when it comes to national issues we cannot forgive sins, particularly when all the conditions for the implementation of Resolution 425 are available. We have a government, an Army, and a UN force.

Birri criticized the regime and said: Their attitude toward Syria is one of sweet talk. What Second Republic [post-al-Ta'if Lebanon] are they bragging about? The most important thing about the Second Republic is that the cabinet is the source of authority, but when it comes to application, the exact opposite is true. The Constitution and the law are never applied, and the decisions are made outside the meetings of the executive authority. What is happening is a clear violation of the al-Ta'if Accord provisions. In the First Republic [Lebanon before al-Ta'if], one used to inherit from his father, whereas in the Second Republic inheritance goes to sons and sons-in-laws.

Birri added: They have sold out Resolution 425 and now they want to sell out the issue of Imam Musa al-Sadr. Libya did not give them more weapons than it gave their opponents. The weapons in Liberia and other African countries, which are being used to fight and expell the Lebanese, come from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

Birri added: I say that there is a conspiracy against Syria by getting it involved in each and every thing, whether big or small, and I apologize in advance to struggler leader President Hafiz al- Asad. Although I am aware of Syria's wish, I would like to emphasize the decision we made at the Amal Central Council means only two things. First: We want a unified and just Arab state. We have sacrificed and will sacrifice to give impetus to the peace process. Second: We are behind the the national Army, despite the reservations, and we hope its command will maintain its patriotism and style and will not turn into a tool subject to the whims of an unjust regime.

Birri added: To straighten things out, we must pay the price so that we might not return to fighting and sedition. To set things right, I announce in the name of the Amal Movement, in my name, and on behalf of brother Muhammad Baydun that we are not part of this government, that this government is not part of us, and that we are absolutely not prepared to be false witnesses. We announce our resignation from this government. They have misunderstood this people, who are following two lines: The south and Musa al-Sadr, and this regime is against both.

Ministers Birri, Baydun Announce Resignation

NC3108103991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri and Minister Muhammad Baydun have announced their resignation from the government. In a speech at today's ceremony in al-Nabatiyah to commemorate the anniversary of the disappearance of Imam al-Sadr, Birri announced: We are not willing to be false witnesses in a government that does not understand those who care only about two things—the south and Musa al-Sadr. This government has wronged the south and Musa al-Sadr.

Birri added: I support whatever serves the good of Syria and Lebanon, but I oppose anything that harms Syria and benefits Amal alone.

He stressed that he does not want his resignation to be regarded as sign of displeasure with Syrian policy.

Birri said the government should not have agreed to attend a peace conference, even if did so with a view toward serving the country's interests. He called for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Birri strongly criticized the regime and the government.

Birri Sets Conditions for Retracting Resignation

NC0209065491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has said that he is ready to retract his resignation if the government enforces the Constitution and the law, adheres to a clear position on the issue of the kidnappees, particularly Imam Musa al-Sadr, and refrains from normalizing ties with Libya.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-LIWA' published today, Birri said that the cabinet's discussion of all major issues follows a prearranged script. He stressed that those who really offend Syria are the liars who come to cabinet meetings with their minds already made up and claim that they act in coordination with Syria.

Birri also said the Army had been instructed to impede any action by those attending the Amal Movement's commemoration of the anniversary of Imam al-Sadr's disappearance. He added that the cabinet is unable to function, with this person or that making its decisions for it. He emphasized that he has come of age and wants to participate in decisionmaking. He stressed that he will continue to express his views even if he is replaced in the cabinet.

Joint Committee on Conference To Include PLO

NC3008153191 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, Aug 30 (AFP) - Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat have agreed to create a joint committee for Syrian-Palestinian coordination on the Middle East peace conference, a Palestinian group said here Friday.

A statement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a component of the PLO, said the committee would meet in early September to exchange views on the U.S.-proposed conference and coordinate positions but gave no details on its members or the meeting's venue.

Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization have been at odds over Palestinian leadership since 1983, when 'Arafat was expelled from Damascus.

The meeting between the PLO leader and Khaddam in the Libyan capital Tripoli was also attended by DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah.

It focused on the peace conference and the need to hold a quadripartite meeting grouping the PLO, Syria, Egypt and Jordan—states bordering Israel—ahead of the seventh regional tour by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, it said.

Position on Peace Conference, Israel Reiterated

JN3008171091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, our Navy this morning celebrated their honored anniversary. To mark this occasion, the pictures of leader al-Asad, banners, and signs were hoisted. Likewise, naval displays and sports contests were held to mark the occasion. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, deputized for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in attending the anniversary celebration. The celebration was also attended by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; comrade secretaries of the party branches in Latakia, Tartus, and the Tishrin University; as well as Latakia and Tartus governors. [passage omitted]

Amid a storm of applause and chants praising our party and comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, leader of our nation's march, General Mustafa Talas, delivered a speech. He began by relaying the greetings of his excellency the president on the occasion and his wishes of success for combatants in the performance of their national and pan-Arab tasks. Then, Gen. Talas spoke of the deep meanings connoted by the glorious Navy Day and of the eternal feat that made this day one that is celebrated by our navy, a reminder inspiring self-confidence that we can forge ahead in walking the paths of victory and liberation.

In his speech, Gen. Talas paid tribute to the bright history of our valiant navy. He also commended its constant readiness to protect the homeland's coast. Furthermore, he praised our sailors who contributed through honorable performance and manliness to forging the glories of the October liberation war. Our sailors demonstrated high skills and a good mastery of sophisticated weaponry, which they used efficiently and well, he added.

Gen. Talas also touched on the Gulf war ignited by the Baghdad ruler and the devastating effects it had on the Arab nation's march. While talking about peace efforts in the region, Gen. Talas affirmed that Syria responded favorably to these efforts, out of a strong awareness of new world developments, a full realization of their future dimensions, and also of the requirements dictated by the Arab nation's pan-Arab higher interests. He added: Leader al-Asad's response to the U.S. peace proposals has unveiled the real face of the Israeli rulers, bared their evil intentions, and shown the world Syria's keenness to make the peace efforts a success, since they fall in line with international legitimacy and also with the endeavors to establish a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of commitment to UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

Gen. Talas asserted that Syria will remain committed to its pan-Arab objectives and also to defending Arab rights and causes. He added: Israel, as it has become clear to the world, is the only party that is obstructing the peace process by its rejection of UN resolutions and its efforts to neutralize all endeavors that seek to convene the peace conference. We have always been and will remain supporters of the Palestine question. He recalled the following statement which was made by leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad: We will continue to support the Palestinian people in their refusal to capitulate before the occupiers or to be subdued by deviationists. Likewise, we will continue to support Palestine in word and deed.

Concluding his speech, Gen. Talas, renewed, on behalf of our navy, the pledge of allegiance to leader al-Asad and his victorious march. He affirmed that persistence, vigilance, constant readiness, and high preparedness are our means to reinforce the Armed Forces' capabilities and constantly render them capable of performing the sacred national tasks. The celebration was concluded by playing the Syrian national anthem. Normal military ceremony was observed when Gen. Talas, who deputized for the commander in chief, left the event. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bubiyan

JN3008153491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] An official spokesperson for the Syrian Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

The Syrian Arab Republic has received reports of an attempted infiltration by a group of the Iraqi regime's forces into Kuwait's Bubiyan Island with strong denunciation.

This act violates Arab and international charters and reconfirms that the Iraqi regime has not benefited from the lessons of past experiences, which caused suffering for the people in Kuwait and Iraq.

In this context, the Syrian Foreign Ministry will make the necessary contacts with the signatories of the Damascus Declaration to study this fresh violation and its objectives in the next meeting of these countries scheduled for September.

Defense, Security Agreement Signed With Lebanon

JN0109092791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The Defense and Security Agreement between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Lebanon was signed in Shtawrah this morning. This is in implementation of the stipulations of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty signed between the two fraternal countries by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al- Hirawi on 22 May 1991.

The agreement was signed for the Syrian Arab side by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; and Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah. It was signed for the Lebanese side by Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and defense minister, and Major General Sami al-Khatib, minister of interior.

Pact To 'Organize' Ties

JN0209062691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 2 Sep 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "On the Defense and Security Agreement Between Syria and Lebanon," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Defense and Security Agreement signed yesterday between Syria and Lebanon is a practical translation of the stipulations of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty, signed between the two sisterly countries by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi on 22 May 1991. In fact, the defense and security pact signed yesterday contains nothing new; time and events have proven that what exists between the two countries is far more important than any agreements or documents. However, this and similar agreements are considered necessary because they organize the brotherly bilateral relations. Definitely, the signing of this agreement means that legitimate authority in Lebanon has assumed its natural position at domestic, Arab, and international levels. Thus, the Defense and Security Agreement is undoubtedly considered the beginning of a series of agreements which will cover all fields. All these agreements will be in the service of the two sisterly countries. However, the Defense and Security Agreement will maintain a special status because it will organize the process of warding off the dangers that any of the two sisterly countries might encounter. Besides, significant parts of the two countries' territories are still under Zionist occupation.

Al-BA'TH asserts that the process of bilateral cooperation, especially in areas of defense and security, has in fact been baptized by the blood of Syrian martyrs, who offered their blood in the years of the ordeal to defend Lebanon's Arabism and the unity of its territory and people. This means that what existed between Syria and Lebanon is truly much more important than any written agreement.

The paper continues: Arab Syria is the only Arab country which did what it should have done during our sisterly country's ordeal. There is no need to reiterate things that have already been said. However, it is useful to recall that Syria did all that stemming from its principled pan-Arab stands, not for a personal end or narrow interests, as some did at various times in history. Those persons deployed every means available to keep Lebanon constantly bleeding. This is especially true of the Baghdad regime, which devoted all its resources to maintain the bleeding. Moreover, it tried to exacerbate this situation, to make it acquire more dangerous dimensions. However, the awareness of the Lebanese people and the cooperation of the Lebanese authority and national forces have denied all those what they sought to achieve. Lebanon is now enjoying tranquility, peace, and stability. Almost everything has returned to normal, with the exception of the situation in south, where there is a continued Zionist occupation. Arab and international efforts should focus on the implementation of UN Resolution 425, providing for full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the areas it occupies in the dear south.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: In all cases, with or without agreements, Syria, as it has always been, will remain alongside Lebanon. It will not allow anybody to undermine what has been achieved on the ground. Moreover, through brotherly coordination and cooperation with our brothers in Lebanon, Syria will work to achieve all that would be in the service of Lebanon and to entrench the unity of its territory and people.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Ready for Talks With Soviet Union

LD0109101791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The Muslim mojahedin of Afghanistan are ready to enter negotiations with the Soviet Union to solve the country's political problems. According to the report of the Central News Unit from Islamabad, Borhanoddin Rabbani, the leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, yesterday upon return from the joint session [of Iran, Pakistan, and the mojahedin] in Tehran announced the news and said that recent world developments—notably events in the Soviet Union—further necessitate the Afghan problem to undergo political change.

He also termed the session held in Tehran as successful and positive, and thanked the Iranian and Pakistani officials for their cooperation in solving Afghan problems.

Rabbani once again rejected to enter any kind of negotiations with the Kabul regime.

Pro-Saudi Afghan Rebel Leader Shot Dead

BK3008114691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 30 (AFP)—A Saudi Arabian-backed Afghan resistance leader, Maulvi Jamilur Rehman, was shot dead outside his home in northern Pakistan Friday, a spokesman of his Salfi party said here.

Rehman, 60, was shot by a visitor dressed as an Arab who apparently came to negotiate the Salfis differences with Hezb-e- Eslami of Afghanistan.

Hezb-e-Eslami, led by fundamentalist Chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has driven out Rehman's forces from eastern Konarha Province after about two weeks of fighting that left about 300 people dead on both sides.

The sources said Rehman was shot dead soon after he left his home in Bajaur to say his Friday prayers.

It was not immediately clear what had happened to his attacker.

One report said he was arrested while another said he was killed by Rehman's bodyguards.

Rebel Infighting Around Asadabad Reported

LD0109084891 Kabul Radio Afghainstan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Heavy fighting took place yesterday once again among the extremist groups of Golboddin and Jamillurrahman in some parts of Asadabad City, Konarha Province. According to a report by the BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] military section, in the course of these clashes—during which both sides used various types of heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles against each other—30 men from those groups including 15 Pakistani subjects were killed and dozens of others were injured.

The fundamentalist Golboddin group claimed earlier that it had captured the centers and positions of the rival group in Asadabad City and in the areas around it. However, yesterday's fighting showed that Jamillurrahman group has gathered its forces again after being defeated and forced to escape from the region, and it has embarked on attacks on those centers and positions that were captured by Golboddin during the recent fighting.

Missiles Fired on Kabul; Child Killed

LD3108181891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Extremists today fired two surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in Kabul city, martyring a 7-year-old child. The BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] military section reports that these missiles were of the Sakr type which, contrary to all international norms and standards, are being supplied to the war-mongering extremists by Pakistani militarists.

These missiles, which were fired from a western direction, hit residential areas in city ward five and also inflicted material damage.

Rebels End Struggle; Weapons Seized

LD0109083391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A 600-man group led by Mawalawi Agha Sherin, which include 300 armed men, ended their armed activities and joined the national reconciliation policy yesterday in some parts of Khenjan district, Baghlan Province. [passage omitted] This group, which had been operating within the structure of the extremist group of Golboddin, was armed with a BM-1 system, five mortars, two Dashs, a ZK-1, a rocket launcher, 10 communication systems, hundreds of light weapons, and hundreds of shells of light and heavy weapons.

Seven kg of explosive, 70 meters of explosive wire, and a magnetic mine [as heard] were discovered and seized today in parts of Kabul Province by the personnel of the Ministry of State Security. The BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] military section reports the explosive materials were being transported to Kabul city by men attached to extremist group of Golboddin in order to plant bombs in the crowded parts of the city. Painful incidents were prevented as a result of the timely seizure of these materials.

Bangladesh

Spokesman Says India To Return Disputed Area

BK3108160891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] The Tin Bigha corridor is expected to be handed over to Bangladesh by India by the end of the current year. Talking about the just-concluded three-day official visit to India by Foreign Minsiter A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, a foreign office spokesman said in Dhaka today that the complete outcome of the visit is that all decks are being cleared for transfer of the corridor to Bangladesh.

All matters of mutual interest came up for discussion during Mr. Mustafizur Rahman's talks with his Indian counterpart, Madhavsinh Solanki. The talks with Mr. Solanki covered all the issues of bilateral concern, including sharing of the waters of rivers Ganges and the Tista. Other subjects like return of Chakma refugees from India to their homes in Chittagong hill tracts, balance of trade, growth of economic cooperation were discussed.

The foreign minister also called on Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who showed keen interest in resolving bilateral disputes.

The foreign minister, on his way to the Indian capital, had talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Basu on the Tin Bigha issue. The spokesman said the Indian foreign minister is expected to visit Bangladesh in December to attend the meeting of Indo-Bangladesh joint economic commission.

1000 Injured in Mymensingh University Clash

BK3008155891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The Agricultural University at Mymensingh has been closed for an indefinite period. The university syndicate at an emergency meeting this afternoon took the decision following a clash between two rival groups of students. At least 100 students were reportedly injured. All residential students have been asked to leave their halls by 0800 tomorrow morning. BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] and police have been deployed around the campus.

Japanese Mission to Dhaka Delivers Kaifu Letter

OW0109134991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Dhaka, Sept. 1 KYODO—A high-level Japanese economic mission has handed a letter from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to Bangladeshi Premier Begum Khaleda Zia expressing interest in deepening cooperation in various fields, the official BSS NEWS AGENCY said.

The letter was handed by the mission leader, Kikuo Ikeda, a special assistant to Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and former president of Nippon Koei Co., to the Bangladesh prime minister on Saturday evening.

The 40-member mission, including government and business officials, arrived here Friday to explore investment and trade possibilities.

Meanwhile, local newspapers Sunday reported Japan is very anxious to get a letter of guarantee from the Bangladeshi Government for the 450 million dollar Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (Kafco) project, in which it has a major interest.

The letter of guarantee for 229 million dollars credit for the project, as stipulated in the agreement, has been withheld by the government on grounds of "inequitable and against national interest."

Ikeda said the delay in the project "is going to be the biggest impediment to the promotion of trade and investment," the NEW NATION newspaper reported.

The Japanese mission Sunday went to the southern port town of Chittagong to inspect an export processing zone (EPZ) and a urea fertilizer factory, where substantial Japanese capital is invested. Over a dozen Japanese firms have invested more than 100 million dollars in the EPZ.

The mission's members, who have already met a number of ministers including those with the finance, industries, and commerce portfolios, will attend a Bangladesh-Japan economic forum to be inaugurated on Monday.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting

BK0109130091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka Sunday for Ghana to attend the 10th ministerial-level meeting of the nonaligned countries beginning in Accra Monday. The foreign minister will lead a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the conference. The ministerial meeting's main agenda will be fixing the venue and date of the 10th conference of the heads of government and state of the nonaligned countries. It will also make assessment of the program of action for South-South cooperation aimed at attaining collective self-reliance.

India

Kashmir Border Clashes With Pakistan Continue

BK0209120591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three civilians were killed and four others injured in villages near Punch town when the Pakistani troops resorted to firing and shelling last night. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that the shelling, which started around midnight close to the line of actual control in Kirni sector, is still continuing. Those killed or injured in yesterday's firing belong to three villages: (Banwat), (Ningali), and (Kafta).

The state governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, arrived in Jammu from Srinagar today and reviewed the situation with senior civil and military officials. Our Jammu correspondent reports that shelling by Pakistan on villages 5 km deep inside the Indian territory is an incident first of its kind since the 1971 war.

The incident appears to be in retaliation to the action by the Indian Army, which forced the Pakistani troops to retreat from some houses encroached by them near the line of control in Kirni sector. While clearing the encroachment, a large quantity of arms and ammunition left by the Pakistani troops were also recovered. The Indian Army also took into its possession two bodies—one of an officer and another of a soldier—both of the Pakistan Army.

Indian, Pakistani Commanders To Meet

BK0209161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Excerpts] In Jammu and Kashmir, three civilians were killed and four others injured in (Banwat), Nangali, and Kasba villages in Punch sector when the Pakistani troops resorted to heavy shelling last night. [passage omitted]

The state governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, reviewed the situation with senior civil and military officials in Jammu today. According to latest reports received this evening in Jammu, the Pakistani shelling on civilian areas in Punch sector has stopped. But the firing on the line of actual control was continuing.

Meanwhile, Indian and Pakistani army commanders in the Punch sector of Jammu and Kashmir are to hold a flag meeting tomorrow. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the meeting is being held after the army headquarters of the two countries had discussed the issue.

Further on Kashmir Situation

BK0309043491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Formation commanders of Indian and Pakistani armies in the Punch sector are to hold a flag meeting today to discuss the present situation along the line of control and find ways to defuse it. The decision for the meeting was taken during a telephone discussion between the army headquarters of the two countries yesterday after Sunday night's shelling on Indian civilian areas by Pakistani troops. Three civilians were killed and four injured in three villages located about 5 km inside Indian territory. The local commanders will also discuss the continuing exchange of fire across the line of control in the Kirni sector. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that bodies of a Pakistani army officer and a soldier, killed on Sunday afternoon, will also be handed over to Pakistan. These bodies had been left behind by the fleeing Pakistani troops when the Indian army cleared their encroachment from inside some houses close to the line of control.

Meanwhile, the latest reports from the Punch sector say that shelling on the civilian areas has stopped, but firing along the line of control is continuing.

Sikh Factions Decide Not To Participate in Polls

BK0209042691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] In Punjab, various factions of the Akali Dal and several Sikh organizations held a meeting at Anandpur Sahab yesterday. The meeting resolved not to take part in the elections in the state till the stopping of, what it called, state repression. The meeting appealed to all militant organizations to stop killing innocent persons in the state. It demanded a probe by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] into the Pilibhit incident in which 10 persons were killed.

The prominent leaders, who attended the meeting include, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, Captain Amrinder Singh, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tora, and Mr. Chandrajit Singh Walia.

31 Killed in Violent Incidents in Punjab

BK0109124291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] In Punjab, militants shot dead 11 persons travelling in a jeep near Barnala in Sangrur District this afternoon. According to an official spokesman the victims were returning after attending a religious function when militants opened fire from another vehicle.

Elsewhere in the state, 20 persons, including seven militants and three policemen, were killed in separate incidents since last night.

Khalistan Commando Force Chief Killed in Punjab

BK3108124591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, one of the most dreaded militants and the chief of the so-called Khalistan Commando Force, Gurjant Singh Rajasthani, was killed in an encounter with the security forces at Mohali Town near Chandigarh today. According to an official spokesman, the militant was involved in over 1,000 killings in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. He carried a reward of 10 lakh rupees on his head. His victims included 58 persons in Dariyapur and Kaithal in Haryana and several bus passengers in Punjab.

Assam Government Releases 10 More Detainees

BK3108153091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] The Assam government today ordered the release of 10 more ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] detenus [detainees] held under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act. An official spokesman told newsmen in Dispur today that the government expects a reciprocatory gesture from ULFA in the form

of release of two of the eight hostages held by it since the 1st of July. This followed an understanding with mediators on the issue.

Another Arrested in Rajiv Gandhi Murder Case

BK0109034791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] One LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activist has been arrested by the Special Investigation Team of the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] on the charges of sheltering Sivarasan and Subha, the prime accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. An agency report from Bangalore said yesterday that the arrested person had accommodated the accused in his house in Bangalore earlier this month. The report said an air- conditioned, car reportedly used by Sivarasan and Subha, and a Maruti Gypsy [car] were seized from a garage in Bangalore.

I. Gandhi Assassin's Wife Dies of Heart Attack

BK0209092291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The death occurred in Chandigarh of former Akali Dal-Mann member of parliament, Mrs. Bimal Khalsa, this morning following a heart attack. She was the widow of Beant Singh, one of the assassins of former prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She was 37.

Hun Sen To Visit India Last Week of Sep

BK0109090291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Mr. Hun Sen, is to visit India in the last week of this month on his way back home after attending the UN General Assembly session. During the UN session in New York, rival Cambodian leaders will have another meeting to settle their disagreement on the election. Mr. Hun Sen's visit to India after these meetings will enable the Indian leaders to have a first-hand assessment of the peace negotiations.

Minister Speaks on Defense Exports

BK0109042991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The minister of state for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Defense, Mr. S. Krishnakumar, says the government is willing to work with the private sector in certain areas of defense production where costs can be cut and savings made.

Addressing a meeting of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Madras yesterday, the minister said there is good scope to increase defense exports which stood at 100 crore rupees last year. This year the center hopes to achieve an export target of 300 crore rupees.

Police Foil Attempt To Smuggle Out Uranium

BK3008160891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Uranium worth $50,000 in the international market was seized in Ranchi yesterday, while being smuggled out of the country. The local superintendent of police informed newsmen that two persons were arrested in this connection. He said it is not yet certain as to which country the uranium was being smuggled to.

Prime Minister Rules Out Bank Denationalization

BK3108151291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Trade and industry have expressed confidence that the country will be able to attract large foreign investments as a result of the new economic initiative and recent changes in the trade and industrial policies. Representatives of FICCI [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry], ASSOCHAM [Associated Chambers of Commerce], engineering industry, and All India Manufacturers Organization had separate meetings with the prime minister in New Delhi today. They said a number of inquiries have been received for investments from abroad. They wanted the Indian missions abroad to play an active role in promoting exports and attracting foreign investments.

Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said the prime minister reacted favorably to their suggestions. Reacting to some suggestions, the prime minister ruled out denationalization of banks.

Janata Dal Denies 'Adjustment' With Congress-I

BK3008121691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The Janata Dal has described as baseless the report appearing in a national daily today that some of its members are inclined to entering into an adjustment with the Congress-I. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, said Janata Dal has basic ideological differences with the Congress-I. He made it clear that anyone who has sympathies with the Congress-I has no place in the Janata Dal. Eight Janata Dal members of parliament have also lodged a written protest with the editor of the daily.

Swiss Court Extends Deadline for Bofors Case

BK3008151891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] A Swiss court has extended till 31 October its deadline for submission of the Indian Supreme Court's judgement in the Bofor's case. A CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] spokesman said in New Delhi today that the CBI has requested the Indian Embassy in Switzerland to convey to the authorities concerned that a certified copy of this judgment will soon be sent to them for submission in the Cantonal Court in Geneva. The

Supreme Court, in its judgment, had upheld the CBI's FIR [First Information Report] in the Bofors case and had set aside the order of Mr. Justice Chawla of the Delhi High Court in this regard.

Iran

Musavi-Ardebili Denounces U.S. in Second Sermon

LD3008201291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Second sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran on 30 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Brothers, sisters! We live at a time when the world-devouring America has taken all the inhabited regions of the world under its domination. It has officially, militarily occupied the Persian Gulf region, which is the energy source, the energy store of the world, and the heart of Islamic lands. It embarks on humiliation, plunder, massacre, and savage destruction. And with a feeling of victory, without rivals, considers itself the undisputed guardian of the world. This is a pestilence and a disaster.

For the Soviet Union, Europe, and the Islamic states it has contrived dangerous plots. It has annihilated the Soviet Union and still does not desist. Just look at what it is doing regarding the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It does not even refrain from open interference in Soviet affairs. And the things we call world public opinion, so on and so forth, it is as if they are made for us only; such things do not matter to them at all. I think it will not desist until it brings the Soviet Union down to the level of an ordinary state. And it deals with Europe in quite another way.

As for Islamic states, the United States is determined, through the imposition of a command [farmayeshi] conference, in the name of peace with the usurper Israel, to legitimize Israeli rule, safeguard its security, and bring all under Israel's umbrella. Anyone who sits at that conference table is either a mercenary and self-betrayer [khodforukhteh]. [congregation chants: God is great, Down with America, and Down with Israel]

Who would bestow on his enemy and murderer the legitimate rights of a tyrannized nation merely in order to stay in power for a few days? Can't those mercenary leaders see that, on the one hand the United States encourages their enemy, Israel, to have and to produce destructive weapons and puts vast amounts of aid at its disposal. On the other hand, it disarms the region, the Islamic states, and those same lackeys. If one has any dignity—even if he has no religion—and human generosity, would he really bear such humiliation? Would he be prepared to sign such a filthy, shameful paper.

Any country that allows that conference, that inauspicious, damned, and condemned conference to be held there, or any person who sits at the negotiation table, has engaged in treason against Islam, the Muslims, and the oppressed people of Palestine and has trampled on the immacuate blood of thousands of Palestinian and Muslim martyrs. [congregation chants: God is the Greatest, Khamene'i is the leader, Down with America, Down with Israel]

On the silence of Muslims...[changes thought] We call on world clerics, scholars, scientists, free thinking people, jurists, politicians, writers and speakers, particularly the Muslim people, not to remain silent in the face of such disgrace and shame. How come they do not say anything? Why do they not say what they have to say? What are they waiting for? Have they dropped dead? We are surprised. We call on them to break their silence and not to be scared or afraid, and to cry out in protest. Otherwise they will be condemned and disgraced by their awakened consciences and by God and his messengers and history. [congregation chants slogans in support]

I wonder. I wonder how the oppressed and homeless people of Palestine have risen up, bravely and courageously, to protect their rights and to free dear Quds [Jerusalem]. Every day martyrs and blood are sacrificed and the United States and the West tramples on the blood of their sacrifices and plans to sign a peace treaty.

O Muslims of the world, scholars, clerics, students, free thinking people, men and women! Come and rise up and cry out and fight to stop the political games of the disgraced United States of America! Show the light of our immaculate movement! [congregation chants: God is the Greatest, Khamene'i is the leader, Down with America, Down with Israel]

Oh God, my God, what pestilence has befallen the great Islamic ummah! Faith, steadfastness, self-sacrifice, courage, and martyrdom have been the characteristics of Muslims throughout history. What a black day it is for the Muslims now! They put up with all of this shame and disgrace—And they are proud of it! [passage omitted]

Velayati, UN Representative Discuss Hostages

LD3008185991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Giandomenico Picco, the UN's Secretary General's representative, last night met with Foreign Minister Velayati. They discussed the trend of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 and the recent developments concerning the problem of Afghanistan, particularly in view of the joint session held among Iran, Pakistan, and the Afghan Mujahidin.

Mr. Picco came to Tehran to coordinate the coming visit of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. Picco thanked Iran for its

efforts toward the release of Western hostages and submitted a report on the efforts of the UN secretary general on the release of the hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Velayati stressed the necessity of freeing Iranian hostages in Lebanon and requested precise information about them. He also said that for the hostage release trend to continue, it is necessary that innocent Muslims who are imprisoned by the Zionist regime be freed.

Kharrazi Denies Israeli Claim About Pilot

LD0109100191 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept. 1, IRNA—Iran's representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi has completely dismissed the Zionist regime's claims that an Israeli pilot is held by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

He said the Zionist regime, which is in a state of inaction vis-a-vis the release of the hostages, by raising such unfounded claims is attempting to get itself out of the situation.

The Iranian envoy stressed that the issue of the Zionist war prisoners must be sorted out with Lebanon and has no connection with the issue of hostages. The Zionist policy of linking the release of the Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners to clarifications of the fate of the Israeli war prisoners is "wicked, illogical and wrong," Kharrazi added.

Reiterating that undoubtedly the West has influence over the Zionist regime, he said that if the West is truely sincere in its efforts to secure the release of the hostages and values human lives, it must press Tel Aviv to free the Lebanese and Palestinian hostages. "Only then, the Lebanese groups will react positively," he added.

The Lebanese groups released two Western hostages last month and said more hostages will be freed provided that the Muslim prisoners held in Zionist custody are released. Israelis, however, have conditioned the release of Muslim prisoners to clarifications of the fate of seven Israeli war prisoners held in Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry Denies Rumor

LD3108160591 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug, 31, IRNA—Iran today categorically denied a rumor spread by "certain Zionist circles: that an Israeli pilot was being held in the Islamic Republic.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told IRNA that Iran had no information about the fate of the pilot and reiterated that Tehran was always against hostage taking. "We do our best to secure the release of all the Western and Muslim hostages," he stressed.

Habibi on Economy, De Cuellar Visit, Iraq

LD0209122791 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Slept. 2, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Monday said higher gross domestic product (GDP), increased revenues and lower liquid assets with the private sector as well as reduced budget deficit during the past few years, were all indicative of an improving economy.

Speaking to reporters at his weekly press conference, Habibi who is also government spokesman added that the downward trend of gross national product was harnessed in 1989 to the extent that in the following year it registered a 10.1 percent growth.

In 1990, Habibi said, in line with the post-war reconstruction efforts some 29 percent of the total credits were allocated to development projects which was only 19.4 percent in 1989.

On rapid growth of non-oil exports, the spokesman said the revenue from these experts which was 76.8 percent in 1989 reached 80.1 percent in 1990. He said that these exports should be further promoted.

As for the budget deficit, Habibi said it was 50.1 percent in 1988, 26.3 percent in 1989 and 10.6 in 1990 adding that it was the lowest in 1990 during the past 15 years.

He also referred to the private sector's reduced liquid assets and said the figure dropped from 24.2 percent in 1988 to 17.2 percent in 1990 and thus helped curb the inflation and reduce retail prices.

On recent developments in the neighboring Soviet Union, Habibi said Iran would follow a clear and defined policy in this connection.

"With regard to our long common borders with the Soviet Union and our good bilateral relations we are sensitive towards developments in that country," he told reporters.

On the forthcoming visit of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Iran scheduled for September 10, Habibi said the U.N. chief will investigate the progress of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on ending Iraq-Iran war. In this respect special emphasis will be laid on the sixth paragraph which deals with naming of the aggressor party in the war and assessment of war reparations.

He added that in response to the last week visit to Tehran of the Iraqi deputy foreign minister Saad 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, Iran's deputy foreign minister has been invited to pay an official visit to Iraq.

Further on Habibi Conference

LD0209200691

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1714 GMT on 2 September carries a 25-minute recording of a news conference by first Vice President Hasan Habibi in Tehran.

Habibi begins the news conference by giving a general account of issues discussed this week by the cabinet including the various reports heard by the ministers on the economy, on banking facilities for exporters and importers, liquidity growth, and inflation rate.

The first question was about provisions for further training of managers. Habibi says that some plans are being envisaged to allow sabbatical leave for managers so that they may benefit from research. The next question concerns Iran's official position vis-a-vis declaration of independence by some Soviet Muslim republics. Habibi replies that the cabinet charged the Foreign Ministry to watch Soviet developments closely. He adds: "As to our precise views concerning the declarations of independence, you have to wait for a day or two while the Supreme National Security Council conducts its review of the matter. In any case, we have a long and common border with the Soviet Union; we are neighbors; our relations too are friendly and good and we have these links through the republics which happens to be in the south of the Soviet Union. We are sensitive toward and interested in developments as a whole in the Soviet Union".

He goes on to reply to a question about the return of some landowners to some rural regions and agricultural products in the five-year plan.

Another question is put to him about Iran's stance toward developments in the Soviet Union to which he replies: "...we have an established and orderly policy; and our official and explicit stance consists of the same policy that we have been pursuing so far."

Next, Habibi says that the UN secretary general is due to arrive in Tehran on 10 September when he will discuss the progress of Resolution 598, especially paragraph six concerning naming the aggressor and war reparations.

On the question of the Iraqi deputy foreign Minister's visit to Iran and what affect his trip had on future relations with that country, Habibi says that he already mentioned last week that these exchanges of visits are due to continue so that the two countries can get on with discussing various issues concerning the implementation of 598. He also mentions that Iran's deputy foreign minister has been invited to pay an official visit to Iraq and he hopes that eventually "our problems will be resolved."

The last question concerns rises in airfares for civil servants and students.

Foreign Minister To Visit Algeria 1 Sep

LD0109011591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Ali 'Akbar Velayati will begin a two-day visit to Algeria tomorrow at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart, Lakhdar Brahimi.

Cabinet Urges Close Watch on Soviet Developments

LD0109181891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] In today's Cabinet meeting the developments in the USSR were reviewed and discussed and the cabinet, noting the declaration of independence by some of the Muslim republics of that country, called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to watch these developments closely and—bearing in mind that Western countries are not interested in issues related to Muslims and even resort to creating obstacles sometimes—to give priority to affairs concerning the Muslim-populated republics of the Soviet Union.

In continuation of this session the reports of the government committees concerning the proposals of executive organs which had received preliminary attention were put forward and some of these proposals were passed. One of the resolutions of this session was the approval of the general points of the internal regulations concerning the exchange of gifts between foreign officials. The internal regulation envisages collaboration and the adoption of a uniform practice for giving gifts to foreign guests and receiving them. On the basis of this internal regulation, certain value-levels have been taken into consideration for gifts given or received, and our country's officials have been recommended to use the country's cultural, art, and scientific works as gifts [to foreign guests].

Common Stance Urged for USSR Muslim Republics

NC0209070691 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: Changes—But What Now of Soviet Muslim Republics?"]

[Text] In the wake of the recent developments in the Soviet Union, events are taking an unexpectedly fast pace in that country. Under force of circumstances, and against his own personal inclinations and ideas, Gorbachev has resigned from the post of secretary general of the Communist Party, and has disbanded the party's Central Committee. Also for the first time since 1917, "PRAVDA", the official organ of the Communist Party, has stopped being published. On the other hand in most of the secessionist republics, particularly in the Baltic states and in Moldova, huge crowds of people have mounted demonstrations, demanding an early recognition of their countries' independence.

The republic of Estonia's independence was recognized first by Iceland and then shortly afterwards by Denmark. And inasmuch as Denmark is a member of the European Community, this political gesture on the part of that country could have very broad implications. Before the recent coup in the Soviet Union, the attempts by the U.S. to bring the issue of the republics' independence into highlight tended to strain relations between the U.S. administration and Gorbachev. As a matter of fact, before the coup, Gorbachev was of the opinion that the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union constituted the red line that divided him from

Washington. Under the present circumstance of the coup, the U.S. is in a hurry to precipitate the disintegration of the Soviet Union, before the tumultuous situation in that country settles down into some kind of normalcy.

An important factor in this connection is the point of view of Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, who is not so keen about the preservation of the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union, and favors granting independence to the republics.

The position of the Soviet republics with Muslim populations, however, still remains uncertain. They have exhibited inconsistent responses and shifting points of views during the recent events. This type of indecision and lack of determination at a time when the Soviet Union is going through one of its most historic periods is indeed very deplorable.

Leaders of the Muslim republics in the Soviet Union should put aside their differences, and adopt a common stance in the face of events now taking shape in the Soviet Union. It would be a grave mistake if these republics were to remain passive towards the recent developments. And although Iran does not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union, Tehran might be a suitable venue for a meeting of the leaders of the Muslim republics.

Pakistan

Border Cease-Fire Agreement Reached With India

BK0209165991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 2 (AFP)—Pakistan and India agreed Monday to enforce a ceasefire along their common frontier in Kashmir after clashes that left more than 50 dead in less than a week.

The directors-general of military operations of the two countries decided over the telephone to "effect a ceasefire all along the Line of Control in Kashmir" starting at midnight Monday (1900 GMT Monday), the Pakistan Army's Inter-Services Public Relations Department (ISPR) said.

They also agreed to hold Tuesday a flag meeting of local Pakistani and Indian commanders in the Punch sector, the scene of heavy exchanges of fire, to "defuse the tension," the announcement said.

The military statement said four Pakistani soldiers died while the Indians suffered unspecified "heavy losses" in exchanges of "intense fire" Monday in the Nezapir subsector.

In the first clash last week, the Defence Ministry had put the Pakistani losses at two dead.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Monday that the Indian casualties in Saturday's encounter alone "exceeded 30."

Informed sources in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, said at least 25 Indian soldiers died Sunday in the second clash in less than a week.

The fighting, which Pakistan attributed to an Indian attempt to capture its posts in the Punch sector, heightened tension along the line dividing the two parts of Kashmir, of which the northern one-third is controlled by Pakistan.

The army chief, General Asif Nawaz Janjua, had said Friday that the situation at the border was calm and disagreed with assertions from several opposition leaders that India might go to war if the insurgency in Kashmir got out of control.

Two of three wars between India and Pakistan since independence in 1947 have been fought over Kashmir.

Indian sources in New Delhi said the clashes erupted last week when militants tried to cross into the Indian part of Kashmir under covering fire from Pakistani troops.

Pakistan extends moral and political support to the seccessionist militants in the Indian part of Kashmir, but denies giving military support, which India accuses it of.

Islamabad says more than 4,000 people have died in the fighting since early last year.

In a bid to improve relations, the two countries are to hold a fifth round of negotiations between their foreign ministers beginning here September 18.

Indian Attack in Mirzapur Foiled; 3 Killed

BK0209023491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Indian troops again launched attacks on Pakistani posts along the line of control in Mirzapur sector yesterday. A number of troops equivalent to a battalion took part in the attack under heavy artillery cover. The attacks were continuing when reports last came in. A press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations in Rawalpindi yesterday evening says the Pakistani troops effectively foiled this attack, killing or wounding a large number of Indian troops. Three Pakistani soldiers were martyred in the fighting. The press release says the Indian acts are contrary to the understanding reached between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries to prevent tension along the line of control. These acts committed by India demonstrate the growing frustration over its frequent failures in the face of stiff resistance by the Pakistani troops. The Directors General of the two countries again reviewed the situation through a special hotline contact established between them yesterday afternoon and their discussions are expected to continue today as well.

General Discounts Possibility of War With India

BK3108075491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] The Pakistan army chief, General Azif Nawaz Janjua, has discounted the possibility of a war between India and Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad, he said the rumors of an imminent war has no factual base. He said there is no unusual troop movement on the Indian side and Indian troops are well behind the border.

Commenting on the recent clashes in the Punch sector in Kashmir, the general said these were of a minor nature.

AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that the position taken by the new Pakistan army chief is just the opposite to the one taken by his predecessor General Mirza Aslam Beg. General Beg, just before handing over the charge of the army chief, had spoken of the possibility of a war between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue.

Bhutto: Capability To Build Nuclear Deterrent

BK3108145591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 31 (AFP)—Pakistan is capable of building a nuclear deterrent if needed, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said Saturday.

Pakistan "has sufficient nuclear information that, in the event of a threat it could rapidly produce a deterrent," she told foreign correspondents at a meeting here, adding "there was no need for Pakistan to have a quicker capacity."

Reiterating her opposition to nuclear arms proliferation, Bhutto said Pakistan's nuclear programme was controlled by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

She said the president considered her a security threat and had kept her in the dark about the country's nuclear capability in the months before he sacked her as prime minister in August 1990 for alleged incompetence and corruption.

Two months after her sacking the United States, which suspected that Pakistan had boosted its uranium enrichment programme in April 1990 amid increased tension with India, suspended economic and military aid to Islamabad, which Bhutto called a "disaster" for her country.

She claimed it was not until June-July of that year that the United States had clearly alerted her to the dangers of the situation.

She launched an attack on the "political stupidity" of her successor Nawaz Sharif who she said was pursuing an "aggressive" nuclear policy "at the instigation of the president."

No comment was immediately available from the offices of the president and prime minister on the allegations.

Bhutto said she favoured talks with India brokered by the United States aimed at preventing nuclear and conventional arms proliferation on the subcontinent.

But she added that she opposed signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as it was Pakistan's "only card" if such talks were held.

Bhutto said she was disappointed that "clouds" had appeared in plans for France to deliver a nuclear plant to Pakistan because of "ambiguities" over Islamabad's nuclear policy.

French President Francois Mitterrand approved the project in February, 1990.

Spokesman Clarifies Bhutto Remarks

BK0209091391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Sep 91 p 4

[Text] Karachi, Sept 1—A Bilawal House [Bhutto's residence] spokesman has clarified the report about Ms Benazir Bhutto's comment on the nuclear issue which appeared in a section of the press.

In a statement, the spokesman said that in her meeting with the foreign press at Islamabad on Aug 31, 1991, Ms Benazir Bhutto confirmed that the United States Government had threatened to cut off aid to Pakistan over the nuclear issue when she became Prime Minister on Dec 2, 1988, but she successfully overcame this threat.

"The President, she alleged, tried to keep her in the dark about the nuclear programme. He could not succeed, as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the father of the nuclear programme and she was fully aware of it. Moreover, the scientists had been recruited and directed by her father and thus had an equation with her."

She said the United States was in the picture where Pakistan stood and had its own sources of information.

She said that she worked with Gen Beg and the President to set at rest the United States' misgivings.

By June 1989, when she addressed the House of the United States Congress and made a declaration regarding Pakistan's nuclear policy, the United States Government accepted her government's position knowing fully well where Pakistan stood.

At that time in June 1989, Pakistan was in possession of knowledge which would have enabled it to rapidly meet an Indian threat should it have materialized. There was, therefore, no need for Pakistan to cross any further lines.

Unfortunately, that line may have been crossed without informing the Prime Minister. By indulging in such irresponsible action, the President unleashed a series of events which now threaten Pakistan's entire position along with a damaging cutoff in military and economic assistance.

Ms Bhutto said that the Americans raised the question of increased nuclear activity once with her in the Spring of

1990 "for information only." It was only in June-July that they said "things were seriously wrong," but when she raised it with the President, she said he had handled the situation. Shortly thereafter, he dismissed her government.

Ms Bhutto stated that had she been in government, she would have worked with Gen Beg and the President, as she had done earlier, to prevent any cut off in aid. She said Pakistan had suffered a severe setback because of the activities begun by the President in the Spring of 1990.

She reiterated there was no need for this activity as Pakistan, in June 1989, had enough knowledge had a threat arisen. This unauthorised activity of Spring 1990 had severely jeopardised Pakistan's security position. The belligerent statement made by the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government during the election of 1990 under political expediency had further compounded the issue and provided the pretext for the cut off of American and Western aid. The hollow slogans of self-reliance had only further indebted Pakistan and made it more dependent.

Ms Bhutto said even in the heat of the election campaign she never deviated from her party's stated position on non-proliferation because she held Pakistan's national interests higher.

She said the pressures for unilateral action by Pakistan in the wake of the ill-advised policies of the President would leave Pakistan without any moral or political pressure to compel India for mutual action.

She disclosed she had worked for a Camp David-style summit to bring about nuclear non-proliferation and a mutual arms reduction treaty between India and Pakistan, the spokesman concluded.

Official Views Outcome of Tehran Afghan Talks

BK3108031091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] The secretary general of foreign affairs said that Pakistan, Iran, and Afghan mojahedin organizations agreed to take practical steps for a solution to the Afghan problem. Akram Zaki was talking to newsmen in Islamabad last night on his return from Tehran after attending the tripartite talks aimed at finding a political solution of the Afghan problem. Akram Zaki said the Islamabad Declaration issued at the end of the first round of tripartite talks was well received by the Islamic states and hailed at the recently held Islamic foreign ministers conference in Istanbul. He added that the UN secretary general's envoy on Afghanistan had also welcomed the Islamabad Declaration. He said the next round of tripartite talks will be held in Islamabad and an interim committee has been set up for preparations for the third round.

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani of Jamiat-e-Eslami Afghanistan and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammad of Harakat-e-Enqelab-e-Eslami Afghanistan, who also returned to Islamabad from Tehran last night, welcomed the tripartite talks and hoped that these will prove successful. They appreciated strong support and interest evinced by Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other Islamic states for peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem.

Sharif Urges USSR Aid To Resolve Afghan Issue

BK0109092691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said that the Indian Government has started realizing the magnitude of the Kashmir problem and hoped that they would agree for a settlement of this issue. He was talking to newsmen on arrival at Quetta airport this morning. Mr. Nawaz Sharif referred to the visit of his special envoy to India and said the envoy had positive talks with Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said Pakistan hopes that the Soviet Union would finally (?help) and pave the way for a political settlement of the Afghan problem. He also referred to the visit of the Soviet envoy to Pakistan and the tripartite talks between Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan tanzimat [organizations] in Islamabad and Tehran for the settlement of the problem. Earlier, when Mr. Nawaz Sharif arrived at Quetta airport at the beginning of his three-day extensive tour of the province, he was given a warm welcome. [passage omitted]

Iranian Consul on Support for Afghan Rebels

LD0209171991 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan support political solutions to the issue of Afghanistan but this does not mean that military solutions are entirely ruled out, Iran's consul in Peshawar said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference, Hamid-Reza Shirkhodaei reiterated that "both countries will not spare any efforts to restore peace to Afghanistan and establish an Islamic system of government there."

The continuation of joint talks between Iran, Pakistan and leaders of Afghan Mujahideen based in the two countries, however, keeps alive the hopes for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue, he said.

The consul said that a delegation of Afghan mujahideen leaders are to visit iran soon to hold talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will be visiting Tehran later this month.

He also disclosed that an Afghan mujahideen delegation will participate in the annual general assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Shirkhodaei, questioned about the Najibollah regime, said Iran will continue supporting both the Afghan Muslim people and their aspirations for toppling the Marxist regime.

Foreign Secretary Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting

BK0109112891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, left Islamabad today for Accra at the head of a seven-member delegation to participate in the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] foreign ministers conference beginning there tomorrow. Talking to newsmen, he said Pakistan would raise the Kashmir issue at the conference. He would also discuss the Afghanistan problem and the prime minister's five-point proposal for regional nuclear nonproliferation with the members of the delegation attending the conference.

Sharif Visits Balochistan, Inaugurates Transmitter

BK0309130991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said a reconstruction program for Balochistan will be launched and that all available resources would be utilized. Talking to different delegations in Khuzdar today, he said Balochistan abounds in minerals and Pakistan can become the richest country of the world if these mineral resources are properly explored and exploited. He said he has directed Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation to take necessary steps for development of mineral resources.

The prime minister said his government will provide a vast network of roads in Balochistan. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said 266 crore rupees would be spent on the construction of Gawadar-Turbat and Khuzdar-(Rotederi) roads. This will be the highest amount allocated for the construction of roads in the country. He said 55 crore rupees have been allocated for construction of national highways this year which is double of the amount allocated for this purpose last year.

The prime minister earlier inaugurated a 300-kilowatt mediumwave transmitter of Radio Pakistan in Khuzdar. Speaking on the occasion, he asked the media to play its due role in full projection of government's policies aimed at self-reliance, acquainting the younger generation with new trends in science and technology, and promoting an environment of peace, love, harmony and [word indistinct]. Later, the prime minister arrived in Gawadar where he visited the under-construction fish harbor. He was briefed on the progress of work and future development program.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Speaks to Ministers on Crisis 30 Aug

BK3008120691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has said that the emergence of political and socioeconomic problems in the country which is committed to democracy is natural. He pointed out that in such a situation it is essential to control the state machinery without any interruption. The president expressed these views when he addressed cabinet ministers, state ministers, chief ministers, secretaries of ministries and state ministries, commanders of the three armed forces, and the IGP [Inspector General of Police] at a meeting held in Colombo yesterday.

The president said that the public services should be continued despite any problems. The security of the state and the public should be maintained continuously. The president pointed out that the governing machinery will be affected by the emergence of political and socioeconomic problems in countries where there is a dictatorial regime. This is not so in democratic countries. In a democratic set up, there are contingency plans to face any situation. The president stressed that Sri Lanka's constitution clearly indicates how the state machinery should function in an emergency situation as well as during normalcy. The three armed forces and the police are geared to protect the state and the people in any type of situation. The president stressed the need to continue the governing activities without interruption for the welfare of the people. Sri Lanka's constitution clearly indicates the action to be taken during a political crisis.

The president said that yesterday's newspapers carried a news item about an impeachment signed by parliamentarians against the president. He added that when the speaker informed him of this incident he convened the cabinet of ministers and informed them about it. The president said that all the cabinet ministers have unanimously agreed to support him on this occasion, except ministers Sirisena Cooray and A.R. Mansoor, who are out of the island. All the ministers, including the prime minister, attended the meeting. The president said that commanders of the armed forces and the IGP have issued a special message pledging to uphold the constitution and to assist the president to maintain law and order in the country.

The president said that during the last two and half years he had taken every possible measure to fulfill the pledges given by him during the election. He added that he assumed duties during a catastrophic period. The subversive activities of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] and the North and East crisis had reached to alarming proportions at the time. The president said that the country at the time was comparable to a taper lit at both ends. He said that the fire on one side had been extinguished and the fire at the other side was in the process of being extinguished.

The president stressed that he had been able to send back the Indian Peacekeeping Force without a confrontation. He said he had decided to close down the Israeli section, because they did not grant the rights of Palestinians in accordance with the United Nations proposal. The president siad that action had been taken to eliminate fraud and malpractices. The cabinet has decided to ban gambling in casinos and the operation of jackpot machines. He pointed out the election pledges which included the establishment of peace, harmony, and prosperity in the

country. He said that he has the strength of purpose to endure any difficult sitution on behalf of the party, the government, and the people. The president maintained that in accordance with his promise, he has done his utmost to remove the constraints which contributed to terrorism. As president, these constraints are being gradually removed. The language problems had been solved. Action was being taken to give employment in accordance with ethnic proportions. Employment avenues are being increased to the developmental process.

The Mahasangha [Buddhist clergy], religious dignitaries of all other religions, and economists have endorsed President Ranasinghe Premadasa's leadership program of work and his policies to preserve the sovereignty, unitary statuts, and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. They have also endorsed his policies to eliminate poverty and elevate the living standards of the people.

President Premadasa Suspends Parliament 30 Aug

BK3008132091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa, by virtue of the powers vested in him by Article 70 of the constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, has issued two proclamations governing the prorogation and summoning of Parliament. The prorogation of Parliament will take effect from midnight on Friday, the 30th of August 1991. The next session of the (?second) parliament will meet at 1030 at the Parliament Hall in Jayewardenapura on Tuesday, the 24th of September 1991.

UNP Leaders Term Suspension Illegal

BK3108115891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, senior leaders of the ruling United National Party, UNP, who are behind the move to impeach President Premadasa, today termed prorogation of parliament as illegal and against the Constitution. In a joint news conference at Colombo, they said the action of the president is an admission that the government has lost majority in the house. The three ministers—Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and Mr. G.M. Premachandra, as well as Mr. Lakshman Seneviratne—who resigned from the Cabinet in the wake of the impeachment movement alleged that phones are being tapped and security withdrawn.

Premadasa Accepts Resignation of 3 Ministers

BK3108144791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, senior leaders of the ruling United National Party, UNP, who are behind the move to impeach President Premadasa, have termed prorogation of parliament as illegal and against the Constitution. At a joint news conference at Colombo today, they said the action of the president is an admission that the government has lost majority in the house.

The president has accepted the resignations of the three ministers who resigned in the wake of the impeachment move. They are Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Mr. G.M. Premachandra, and Mr. Lakshman Seneviratne. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front—EPRLF—leader, Mr. Premachandra, said his party has joined the impeachment move against President Premadasa's action of dissolving the democratically elected Northeast Provincial Council.

Junior Minister Resigns

BK3008143691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Colombo, August 30 (AFP)—Another minister resigned Friday, raising to three the number of key ruling party men defecting to support moves to overthrow President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Junior Labour Minister Lakshman Seneviratne joined his Senior Labour Minister G. M. Premachandra and Education Minister Lalith Athulathmudali who resigned earlier Friday saying they were fed up with Premadasa.

The president, faced with an unprecedented motion to impeach him, suspended parliament Friday effectively delaying attempts to oust him and giving himself more time to win over rebel legislators.

Rebels MPs said 46 government legislators were among 121 who initially petitoned the Speaker Mohammad Hanifa Mohammad Wednesday to impeach Premadasa on a wide spectrum of charges ranging from treason to covering up murders.

Parliament is scheduled to be reconvened on September 24 and political analysts here believe that the impeachment motion could be taken up then.

Premadasa Defends System of Executive Presidency

BK0109112491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The executive presidency created by the people made it possible to bring about speedy development in Sri Lanka, and according to President Ranasinghe Premadasa only the people have the right to do away with this system they themselves created. He said it was possible to implement development programs speedily aimed at eliminating the sufferings of the people due to the mandate given by the people to set up this system of administration. The opposition has tried to make the people go against the system of executive president during past elections, but people on every occasion endorsed this system with ever increasing conviction. The independence, sovereignty, and unity of the country was safeguarded due to this system during the recent years of terror. The people endorsed the executive presidency consistently during the elections held in 1988, 1989, and 1991. During all these elections, the opposition sought a mandate from the people to eliminate the executive presidency.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa observed that the former president, Mr. J.R. Jaywardene, in a wise move created the system of executive presidency in 1978 and thereby took action to expedite the development process through the system of parliamentary democracy. He has been in the State Council constituted under the [name indistinct] Constitution and then in the Legislative Assembly, the parliament, and has been the executive. The president recalled that Mr. J.R. Jaywardene, who was in the opposition after the defeat of the United National Party in 1970, told him that to speed up development, they needed this system of government. The late prime minister, D.S. Senanayake, was able to implement speedy development because of an undivided administration. In this context, the president pointed out that in in this era of independence, we should bring about more development than that was achieved at that time. Under the Westminister system of administration, prior to the introduction of the executive presidency, an individual elected from a smaller constituency became the head of government and he represented the entire country. However, the president pointed out that more attention was paid to his electorate, but under the new system the head of state has the opportunity to consider the entire country as his electorate. [passage omitted]

Ruling Party Reclaims Majority in Parliament

BK0109071191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party said Sunday it had regained the lost majority in parliament to defeat an unprecedented motion impeaching President Ranasinghe Premadasa as dissidents expressed fears of violence.

United National Party (UNP) loyalists told the state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER that the party had regained its lost majority in parliament with 116 of their 125 MPs pledging support to Premadasa, who was facing an internal revolt.

The local press echoed fears of violence expressed by rebel leaders spearheading Premadasa's ouster campaign and called all parties to the conflict to act strictly within the Constitution and democratic processes.

"The Constitution is the last bulwark between order and chaos and the people's freedom and society's continuance can only be guaranteed by upholding and adhering to the Constitution," the English-language SUNDAY ISLAND said.

THE ISLAND and another privately owned weekly, THE SUNDAY TIMES, noted with satisfaction that the service commanders and the police chief had pledged their support to maintain law and order.

"Surprising though the developments here might have been, there is really no need for any panic, because all that has happened so far is strictly within the provisions and spirit of the Constitution," THE SUNDAY TIMES said in an editorial.

However THE ISLAND cautioned: "There may be mischievous elements and agents provocateurs who might try to exploit the situation for their own purposes. The country and the law enforcement agencies must be alert to this possibility."

Rebel leader Lalith Athulathmudali, who resigned his cabinet portfolio as education minister on Friday, told reporters that he feared the state would sponsor violence to stifle the constitutional campaign to oust Premadasa.

Athulathmudali said speaker Mohammad Hanifa Mohammad had been initimidated by two vehicles which came "irritatingly close" to his motorcade after he accepted a resolution to impeach Premadasa.

Mohammad has declined comment on the political crisis in Sri Lanka after more than 113 MPs, including 47 from the ruling party signed a motion Wednesday accusing Premadasa of a wide range of charges.

Athulathmudali hoped that the military and the police would uphold the Constitution and help maintain law and order despite reports of private armies being activated to intimidate dissidents.

"I am absolutely sure that there will be no military take over. But four goon squads have been reactivated last night. I know the names of two uniformed officers in it," he told reporters Saturday.

He said the government had reduced his body guards from six to two, placed him under surveillance and tapped his telephones.

Athulathmudali was also concerned about intimidation tactics and said another minister, G.M. Premachandra, who resigned with him had been asked to leave his official residence in the capital Colombo.

"This can happen only in an overpowering presidency like ours... but they must behave like in a civilised country," Athulathmudali said.

He described as "undemocratic and dictatorial" Premadasa's move Friday suspending parliament till September 24, effectively buying time to win over dissident MPs to support him.

"The suspension is an unwarranted assault on parliament. Premadasa as accused has closed the court house when there is a case against him. It proves the validity of my argument," he said.

The unprecedented resolution charges Premadasa of treason, intentional violation of the Constitution and covering up murders.

The OBSERVER said 116 of the 125 UNP MPs had given written assurances to the prime minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga that they had not signed the impeachment resolution.

However, Athulathmudali said the anti-Premadasa faction had the "solid backing" of 47 government MPs and the

numbers were growing. He said it was part of their strategy not to reveal the names of those who signed the petition.

The rebel faction is hell bent on dismantling the French-style executive presidency to establish a British modeled parliamentary democracy.

Press reports quoted Premadasa as saying over the weekend that only the people could change the present system of government in Sri Lanka, hinting that any structural changes would require a nation- wide referendum.

Former Minister Denies Outside Support for Ouster

BK0109110291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 1 (AFP)—Rebel legislators leading a constitutional coup to oust President Ranasinghe Premadasa denied reports on Sunday that Western countries and neighbouring India were behind moves to impeach him.

Lalith Athulathmudali, a senior minister whose recent resignation deepened the country's political crisis, told reporters here there was "absolutely no truth in reports that Western economic powers are behind us."

A political commentary in the English-language ISLAND said India had "reportedly pressured" some Tamil MPs to sign a motion impeaching Premadasa on a wide range of charges.

"It is an absolute breach of privilege of those poor MPs. We have had no contact with any foreign country," Athulathmudali said, adding that the government had launched a smear campaign against dissidents.

The ISLAND also said a "powerful Western economic bloc is also said to be in favour of the (impeachment) move."

The state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER had said that casino operators expelled from the country two months ago were financing the defections, paying one million rupees (25,000 dollars) to each defector from the United National Party (UNP).

"We have not paid anyone a cent. We are fighting for ideals. We have nothing to do with casino kings," Athulathmudali said.

He said 47 MPs who broke UNP party ranks to support the unprecedented indictment of Premadasa were solidly with them and discounted state-media reports of the government regaining its lost majority.

Premadasa has suspended parliament for a month till September 24 to win over dissidents within [words indistinct].

Premadasa Calls for Parliament Group Meeting

President's Action Criticized

BK0209050091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, has called for a parliament group meeting at his office in Colombo today. The former minister, Mr. Athulathmudali, who had earlier resigned, has criticized the proposed meeting at the president's office instead of at the parliament. He said such unfair practise of the president, Premadasa, has prompted them to move the impeachment motion against him.

Rebel MPs Refuse To Attend

BK0209144691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 2 (AFP)—A dissident legislator leading a constitutional campaign to overthrow President Ranasinghe Premadasa said he feared physical violence and kept away from a meeting summoned Monday by the president.

Lalith Athulathmudali said he and those rebel MP's who took a stand publicly against Premadasa decided to stay away from the United National Party (UNP) meeting summoned to discuss the current crisis.

"Those of us who did come out in the open decided not to attend because we thought there could be physical assaults against us," Athulathmudali, said as the meeting was still in progress.

However, he said several MPs backing his moves to impeach Premadasa on a wide range of charges were attending the meeting as part of a strategy to confuse Premadasa loyalists.

Athulathmudali said he has 46 MP's solidly behind him. If the charges are proved on the floor of the house, the defectors could bring down the government which has been turned into a minority in parliament.

[Word indistinct] nine ruling party MP's have owned up to signing a six-page resolution to impeach Premadasa.

State media has discounted rebel claims and said the government enjoyed a majority despite defections. Parliament was suspended till September 24 by Premadasa giving himself more time to win over dissidents.

'Intense' Political Actions Continue

BK0209081491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, intense political activities are on between the pro and antimovers of the impeachment motion against President Premadasa in view of the parliamentary group meeting slated for this afternoon.

Our Colombo correspondent understands that most of those who have signed the impeachment motion from the ruling party are reluctant to attend meeting because it has been held at the president's secretariat. The former minister of education, Mr. Athulathmudali, has suggested that a secret ballot in Parliament on the issue is the best way to resolve the crisis. The members, who have signed the motion, have set up a joint action committee to chalk out a further program of action.

Meanwhile, President Premadasa has asserted that the present system of executive presidency could only be changed through a referendum. Speaking at a function at Buttala near Colombo, he said the people have accepted the system and endorsed it at every successive election held since 1978.

Party MPs Reject Impeachment Motion

BK0309043091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the parliamentary group of the ruling United National Party has called upon the speaker to reject the impeachment motion against President Premadasa, terming it illegal and unconstitutional. In a communique issued after a meeting yesterday evening, 116 members loyal to the president called upon the speaker to take cognition of the unanimous resolution supporting the president. The parliamentary group is meeting the speaker today to hand over the resolution.

Legislators, Groups Express Support for Premadasa

BK0209160891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the parliamentary group of MPs loyal to President Premadasa have expressed full support to the president. At a meeting held at the presidential secretariat in Colombo this afternoon, 166 members belonging to the ruling United National Party [UNP] adopted a resolution to this effect. The resolution is to be handed over to the speaker tomorrow with an appeal to invalidate the impeachment motion. Our Colombo correspondent understands that UNP members who had signed the impeachment motion did not attend the meeting.

Muslim League Pledges Support

BK3008140691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The All Ceylon Muslim League and several other organizations have pledged their support to President Ranasinghe Premadasa and called upon the general public to rally round him to [words indistinct] policies. The meeting of the working committee of the All Ceylon Muslim League presided over by the president of the league, Dr. M.C.M. Kaleel, passed a resolution unanimously to support the president. The resolution stated that President Ranasinghe Premadasa is, step by step, implementing the proposals envisaged in his new vision for the alleviation of poverty. Within the (?space) of two years, the president has solved the most of the major problems of the Muslim community with regard to employment, citizenship, language and [word indistinct]. The news release issued by the Muslim League says that no other head of government or political parties has done so much for the welfare of the Muslims.

More Organizations Express Confidence

BK0309131891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] More organizations have expressed confidence and support for the leadership of President Ranasinghe Premadasa who is implementing a practical program to eliminate poverty, wastage and the fear psychosis, safeguarding the unity and sovereignty of the country. The All Ceylon United National Party-Youth Front in a statement says that all peace loving citizens of the country approve of the noble programs undertaken to bring about peace and prosperity in the country by the president who was elected by the people. It further says that it consolidates the faith placed in President Ranasingha Premadasa who has laid the foundation to build the young generation which could take over the leadership of Sri Lanka in future.

The Samastha Lanka Eksath Sammavadi Sishya Peramuna has expressed full support for the president who is dedicating his services to bring about rapid development in the country.

The president of the Ceylon Labor Union, (Vijita Kadraghuna), in another statement pledges unstinted cooperation at a time when the president was making every effort to bring about unity and prosperity in the country taking firm decisions and also making every effort to improve national production, eliminating waste and malpractices.

Foreign Investors Concerned Over Situation

BK3008141191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The free trade zone manufactures association, the major body of foreign investors in Sri Lanka, views with concern the present situation in the country. A statement signed by its chairman, R.S.T.V. Ratnayake, says that with the newly-found political and economic stability, the president contributed to the (?enhancement of revenue), employment, and the exports of the free trade zone. The free trade zone manufacturers association appealed to all concerned to act in the best interests of Sri Lanka to ensure a stable political and economic situation in country.